

# THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER



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## Abracadabra



BRITNI CROCKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Magician Mike Super performed for students last night in Shriver Hall as part of an event organized by the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP).

## University dedicates \$5 million to diversifying faculty

By HEATHER BARBAKOFF  
News & Features Editor

The University has pledged to provide at least \$5 million over the next five years to help departments both hire and retain outstanding female and minority professorial candidates through a pilot program, the Mosaic Initiative.

University-wide, women currently comprise 38 percent of full-time faculty and less than 20 percent of full professors. The numbers for underrepresented minorities are even lower, comprising a mere 6 percent of full-time faculty members and less than 4 percent of full professors.

"One of the most significant reasons [for the Initiative] is that diversity of the faculty

on all dimensions enriches the educational life we give to students. I am inclined to think as broadly as possible about what it means to diversify the faculty ... I think the goal is to enrich the faculty," said Adam Falk, dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

Compared to 2004 numbers, 206 more women and 45 more members of underrepresented minorities have been appointed to Hopkins's full-time faculty of 3,519 for this academic year. United States citizens or resident aliens who are Native American, African American or Hispanic American are considered to be underrepresented minorities.

At Homewood, the Krieger

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CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake spoke at Hopkins about female leadership. Hopkins hopes to increase its female faculty.



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY ASSISTANT

Nirdhar Khazanie is part of the small group of Hopkins students who practice Hinduism.

## Hinduism lets students link tradition and campus life

By HANNAH DIAMOND  
News-Letter Staff Writer

On Sunday mornings, in the basement of the Interfaith Center, members of the Hindu Students Council shed their shoes and engage in aarti, the universal prayer.

They sit in a circle and commence their meeting by chanting "om" three times to open the mind and detach from day-to-day concerns.

Food is blessed and then eaten, and each student takes time to circulate the aarti plate, which itself acquires the power of the divine.

"Aarti is composed of eight verses that ask God to remove

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## Nobel laureate Peter Agre discusses return to JHU, fight against malaria

By HUSAIN DANISH  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Peter Agre looks like any other ordinary man — fairly tall with brown hair, dressed casually in a turtleneck — but behind his modest appearance lies a unique individual: a Nobel Prize winner dedicated to combating malaria.

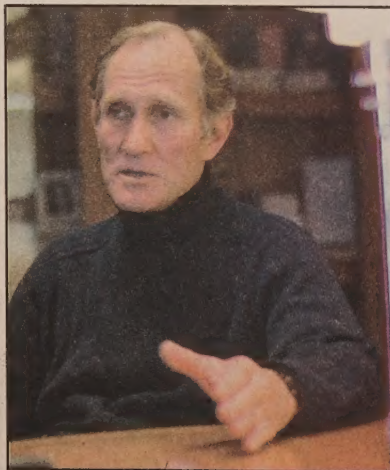
A graduate from the Hopkins Medical School, Agre worked as a researcher and professor in the Department of Biological Chemistry.

In 2003, Agre won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his discovery of aquaporins, protein channels within the membranes of cells that allow the movement of water across the membrane.

But the discovery came as a bit of a surprise.

"It wasn't what we were looking for originally," Agre said.

"We thought that the protein we isolated was part of the Rh blood complex and, in fact, it is not. In truth, there was a little disappointment. 'Oh nuts, it is a contaminant.' But it was a pretty interesting



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Peter Agre won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2003 while working at Hopkins.

contaminant."

When Agre matriculated to the medical school in 1970 with an interest in

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## Despite high grad rankings, faculty wary of Report

By STEPHANIE DELMAN  
News-Letter Staff Writer

US News & World Report released its latest graduate school rankings last week, which had Hopkins placing in the top 10 for programs in both the sciences and the humanities yet again.

However, Hopkins professors and administrators continue to question the accuracy of the increasingly unpopular rankings.

"I think that it's always wonderful to have top 10 departments, but the US News report is completely reputational, and reputational rankings are weak," Dean of Research and Graduate Education Eaton Lattman said.

Lattman said that while it is fortunate that the quality of Hopkins's programs is frequently reflected in the US News report, he does not believe the rankings system should always be trusted.

While all of US News's

undergraduate rankings are based on a combination of qualitative and quantitative data, its graduate rankings in the humanities, sciences and social sciences are based solely on reputation and "peer review," referring to evaluation from schools of similar caliber.

The publication ranks professional programs in business, education, engineering, law and medicine based on both reputation and statistics.

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## Database restricted "abortion" searches

USAID did not call for either keyword or article removal

By MAX McKENNA  
News & Features Editor

Further investigation into the banning of "abortion" as a search term from the Hopkins-run reproductive-health database, POPLINE, has revealed that the government agency that funds the site never asked for the block.

On Friday, Hopkins's Bloomberg School of Public Health removed "abortion" as a stop-word after officials discovered the database's moderators had blocked it as a keyword back in February.

When the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which funds POPLINE, found two articles advocating abortion in the database, it contacted system moderators at the Bloomberg School.

The Center for Communication Programs at Bloomberg proceeded to remove the two articles in addition to five other articles associating abortion with human rights.

The Center then placed "abortion" on a list of stop-words — words like "a," "an" and "the" — that search engines are designed to ignore.

A USAID spokesperson said that the agency did not ask for the article's removal or for the removal of "abortion" as a keyword, and that "the USAID just inquired about some of the article's criteria for inclusion."

The spokesperson said the

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LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

At their meeting Tuesday, Student Council members voiced concerns about committee selection.

## Pres. search committee selects one undergrad

By KATLYN TORGERSON  
News & Features Editor

The University has chosen junior Kurt Herzer, a recently named Truman Scholar, as the sole undergraduate member of the committee that will search for President William Brody's replacement.

Members of the Student Council expressed frustration at their Tuesday meeting that the University did not select an elected member of the Council for the position. Paula Burger, dean of undergraduate education, asked Council President Scott Bierbryer to nominate two students for consideration but gave him only a few days to make the decision. The Board of Trustees ultimately chose neither of his selections.

The Trustees head the search for the new president. As of press time, the University had not yet formally announced who they selected to the committee. Jerome Schnydmann, secretary of the Board of Trustees and executive assistant to the president, interviewed the candidates on the trustees' behalf and was unwilling to comment on the selection before it was officially released.

Herzer said they did not make it clear to them why he was chosen, but that he intended to do his utmost to represent the interests of the undergraduates.

"They were trying to put together a team that had a lot of different

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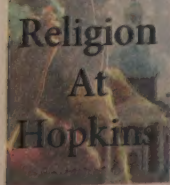
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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# Brody prescribes fix for health care problems

By MARIE CUSHING  
News & Features Editor

When it comes to fixing the American health care system, politicians are failing. That was the message University President William Brody delivered during a lecture Monday on the major issues facing the health care system in America.

The soon-to-retire president says the major problems with the health care system are not being discussed — and that college students will be the ones to suffer.

"This is your future we're describing. I turn 65 next year. I'll go on Medicare, and you'll have to pay for it. And guess what? I can spend as much as I want and you will foot the bill," he said.

With the cost of the health care system near two trillion dollars, polls show that health care is among the leading domestic issues for Americans today. But for Brody, politicians have not been taking a strong stand on the issues. He cited the lack of involvement by high-profile presidential candidates in the Hopkins-sponsored series of health care forums as an example.

"Other than Mitt Romney, we struck out. They didn't want to talk about the issue ... people running for office are scared to have to commit themselves to a policy," Brody said.

Assistant to the President Michael Field, who has helped organize the forums and helped Brody draft his remarks, said coordinators have not given up on attracting the top candidates.

"We have been trying and we're continuing to try. It has something to do with this being such a topsy-turvy campaign cycle. Nothing went according to people's plans. And I think it has something to do with the fact that some politicians prefer not to talk," Field said.

Although New York Senator and Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton agreed to film a forum earlier in the year, a date has not been set. Field attributed the delay to the hectic campaign schedule.

"Sens. Obama and Clinton, who do want to talk, are so frenetically tied up that it's difficult to get on their schedules. We'll see if this changes after the party conventions," he said.

No agreement has been made with Arizona Sen. John McCain, the likely Republican presidential nominee.

"John McCain is essentially coasting. Since he has no battles he would seem to have the time, but he's not going out of his way to talk about it," Field said.

Brody's retirement has not yet affected the forums, but Field expects it will at some point.

A forum will soon be filmed with Senator Ted Kennedy in his U.S. Senate office. Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich has already taped a forum, and current Speaker Nancy Pelosi has agreed to film a counterpoint piece.

In two weeks a forum will be taped with former congressman Billy Pausin, president of pharmaceutical manufacturer PhRMA. Field also hoped to schedule a forum with George Halvorson, the head of Kaiser Permanente, who has agreed to participate in the series. Until then, health care issues will continue to fill the airwaves.

"You really can't pick up the paper or turn on the television without hearing about cost and coverage," Brody said. But it was three other "C's" — consistency, complexity and chronic illness — that he said are being neglected by politicians and the national media.

According to Brody, the "dirty secret" of American health care is that accurate and complete care is given only 55 percent of the time, according to studies.

"We're not talking about the kind of weird disease you have to come to Hopkins for," he said. Brody cited a study by the RAND Corpo-

ration, which found that doctors prescribe aspirin, beta-blockers or cholesterol-lowering medication for only half of heart attack outpatients.

But other initiatives, such as teaching interns how to properly insert blood lines, have helped.

Hopkins reduced the number of blood line infections from two times above the national average to eight months without a single infection in some ICUs.

"That saves us between 11,000 and 22,000 dollars, as well as morbidity and mortality for the patient," Brody said. The United States is the leader in health care costs, and, according to Brody, the American medical system leads the world in another area: complexity.

"If you ever tried to look at your hospital bill, you need to hire an accountant," Brody said. Throughout the years, Hopkins Hospital has seen the number of insurance plans rise to 770, each with their own rules and regulations.

Dealing with the complex billing and collections system takes its toll — the Hospital spends 20 percent of costs on administration. While Brody saw a simple solution to this issue through the adoption of billing standards, such a proposal would take a political force that does not yet exist.

"Nobody is driven to enforce this because of the fear that it would be socialized medicine. Everybody's well-intentioned but it just gets worst and worse," he said. But with the government the major payer in health care, "whether you believe in socialized medicine or you hate it, it's here," Brody said.

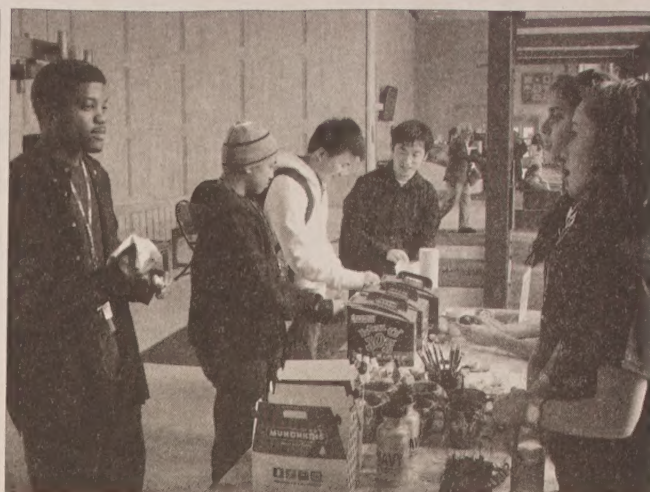
The final "C" in Brody's analysis of the health care system was chronic illness. "If you want to deal with health care costs you have to deal with the chronic patients because that's where the money is," Brody said.

While in 2005 almost half of all Americans lived with a chronic illness, these diseases account for more than 75 percent of all medical care costs, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Brody cited a study by the National Institutes of Health, which found that older generic drugs were just as effective as the more expensive patented drugs.

"If Medicare would implement the simple policy of generic substitution except when there are clinical disparities, we would have conservatively saved 5 billion dollars a year," he said.

What seemed like a simple solution was complicated by politics. Pharmaceutical companies have restricted Medicare from negotiating medicine prices. Brody acknowledged two high-profile medical professionals in the audience: Nobel Laureate Peter Agre and Board of Trustees Vice Chair Mark Rubenstein.

"I probably have to rewrite my speech because they'll be fact-checking it," he quipped.



COURTESY OF JULIA MAIMONE-MEDWICK  
Juniors Amelia Vereb and Julia Maimone-Medwick speak with students during a library study break event. Both are involved with the Navy ad campaign.

## Marketing class creates ad campaign for Navy

By SAMMY ROSE SALTZMAN  
Editor-in-Chief

At the end of the semester, most students are required to write papers, take exams or give presentations, but few are charged with creating and executing a marketing plan for the FBI or the Navy.

However, each spring, students in senior lecturer Leslie Kendrick's Advertising and Promotion are given just such an opportunity.

EdVenture Partners, a California-based marketing firm provided \$2,500 for students to promote the Navy's Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) to their target market — Johns Hopkins pre-medical students. The goal of the project, which is still ongoing at Homewood, is to generate awareness of and give information on the Navy's program.

"[This project] has ... taught me how to work with different people on a number of important issues that are crucial to maintaining a successful campaign. ... it has provided me with an insight into the working world that one does not always see as an intern," junior Amelia Vereb, head of the Public Relations Department, said.

The campaign included several events, such as two "study breaks" in the MSE library and presentations in both the freshman and sophomore pre-med meetings.

Junior Cassie Wilcox, co-manager of the research department heads said her favorite event has been the sophomore pre-med meeting, which attracted over 50 students.

"Since our research has concluded that students have many negative preconceived notions about the Navy, it is important for us to be able to speak with them directly and dispel any misconceptions," she said. "This event definitely offered us that opportunity, and we hope for more participation as the campaign continues."

Students also created a commercial and filmed an interview with a medical student who was enrolled in HPSP, both of which were then posted on YouTube.com. The videos were also used for "projection bombing," a marketing technique which uses public wall space as a screen for advertising material. Each event was also publicized using fliers, Facebook.com and print advertisements.

Members of Kendrick's course are competing with six advertising classes from other universities to create the most successful campaign for the Navy. They will be judged on the interest and results of this project. The winning class is given the opportunity to present their campaign to the Navy at the Pentagon.

Whether or not they win, students in the course have already gained valuable experience in various factors that go into the field of marketing. Kendrick said that by essentially turning the classroom into an advertising firm, students were able to get a real-life look at how different departments work in harmony.

"Throughout the course, students gain first-hand experience in their department, but through updates during class, are exposed to the successes and challenges faced by other departments."

Senior Stephanie Carr, co-manager of the Strategy & Implementation Department, echoed Kendrick: "This is my first real experience with business and planning events. I've realized how much work and communication is involved in planning events and coordinating all the parts of an integrated marketing campaign."

The final event of the campaign will feature an address from a Navy physician and will provide students with the chance to speak with a recruiter and find out more about the program.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Brody was invited to lecture on health care issues Monday by the Public Health Student Forum.

## First Sign of spring at Carma's

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## Market employee brought gun to work

By MICHAEL PISEM  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Baltimore police, with the assistance of Campus Security, found and seized a gun from an employee's jacket in Charles Street Market on April 1.

The gun was observed protruding from a jacket in a staff-only area of the market. A manager called security, who responded with a security officer and an off-duty Baltimore police officer in the employ of the University. Aramark closed the market after the gun was discovered.

"This was a frightening incident, but an isolated one," David Furhman, director of dining programs at Hopkins, said.

"It was an anxiety-ridden day for all concerned," he added.

The gun was confiscated, but the employee, Greylin Williams, fled. A warrant was issued for Williams, and on April 4 he was arrested on handgun charges.

Campus Security has given Williams a trespassing citation, and Lt. Steve Ossmus of Campus Security said, "We told Aramark that he is not welcome here."

The investigation is being run through the Baltimore Police Department with the cooperation of Campus Security and Aramark.

Thus far, no explanation has

been given for why Williams brought the gun to work.

Ossmus did not want to speculate on why the employee would bring a weapon to work.

Ossmus was surprised by the incident, saying he has been here "seven years and never seen anything like this."

"This was clearly an isolated incident. We have no reason whatsoever to believe otherwise," Furhman said.

There were no indications that Williams had brought the gun to work before.

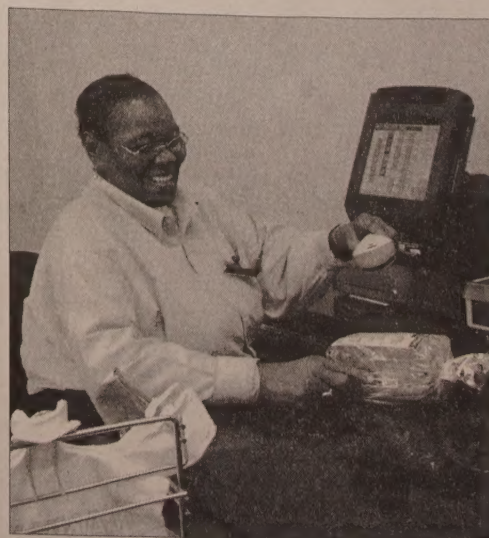
According to Furhman, Williams was given the standard background check and, pursuant to University policy for all employees, did not have a record. Aramark Metro Area District Manager Owen Rosten said that they have not received a comment from the union about the incident.

However,

he said that Aramark "would not have hired [Williams] if he didn't pass the background check."

"Since this employee was hired by Aramark, we have no reason to believe he had a criminal record that precluded employment eligibility," Furhman said.

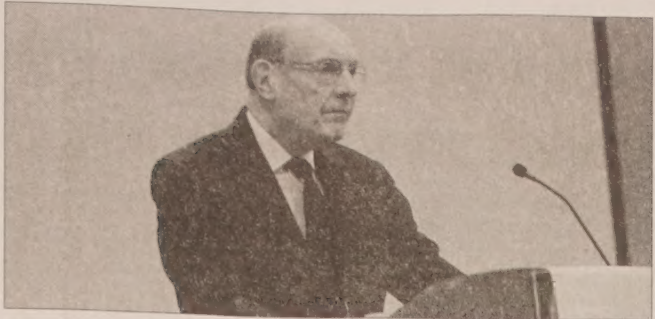
The incident was not reported in the security bulletins because it was considered a recovered property incident, Ossmus said.



FILE PHOTO  
Charles Street Market closed early after the gun was found.



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

A number of speakers addressed economics and politics within Latin America.

## Panel discusses years of socialism in Latin America

By **LEAH MAINIERO**  
News-Letter Staff Writer

A mix of students, faculty members and locals filled the Glass Pavilion on Wednesday night for a panel discussion of the rise of socialism in Latin America.

In keeping with the Foreign Affairs Symposium's theme, "A Decade of Discussion," the panel examined trends in economic, social, and political development in Latin America over the past 10 years.

First to speak among the panelists was James M. Roberts, a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation with 25 years of foreign service experience.

Roberts's opening statement drew chuckles from the crowd. "I feel like a parish priest serving communion in front of the pope," he said, referring to his fellow panelists Riorden Roett, director of Latin American Studies at SAIS, and Dan Restrepo, director of the Americas Project for the Center of American Progress.

Roberts's presentation consisted of a detailed PowerPoint of the 2008 Index of Economic Freedom, an annual study conducted by the Heritage Foundation used to measure the growth, decline and trends in economic openness of countries around the world. The greatest barriers that prevent Latin American countries from "catching up" economically, according to Roberts, are work rules that create jobs but keep prices high, zoning restrictions banning large-scale retailers from building factories and stores, government corruption and inefficiency and the absence of free trade.

"We take for granted that we have a system in place and have easy access to an advanced property rights system," Roberts said. "In Latin America the property rights system is woefully an impediment. Corruption overall is probably the biggest problem. People don't have faith in the government or the police. That is a major barrier to economic freedom."

The next panelist, Restrepo, warned against the tendency to overemphasize particular countries when evaluating Latin American politics.

"To understand Latin America through a prism that focuses on Hugo Chavez and socialism is not accurate," he said in his introduction. Restrepo cited several surveys conducted in Latin America that asked subjects to rate their ideology level from zero (extreme left) to 10 (extreme right). The study, Restrepo revealed, placed countries between 4.9 (Chile) and 5.8 (Colombia).

"This shows there's something

more fundamental going on than just an ideological complication," Restrepo, a self-described "4.5," said. "People need to understand and internalize the real challenges in Latin America today: inequality, instability and lack of institutions."

Next, the panel turned to "Pope Benedict" himself, Roett, who echoed the other panelists' concerns over the economic inequality, then expanded the discussion to focus on the growth of populist movements among impoverished indigenous groups in Mexico and Venezuela.

"The organization of the marginalized," he said, has not been successful, though "it does prepare indigenous peoples to have a say in how the government works. Hugo Chavez doesn't seem to know that [poverty] exists. It's like asking President Bush if he knows that oil is up to almost \$4 a gallon."

Roett's discussion, more than the other panelists', focused on the U.S. role in Latin American politics.

"My colleagues and I are very careful to blame the U.S. for everything that has gone wrong in Latin America," he joked, remarking that after World War II, the United States "chose the Marshall Plan for Europe, a geopolitical strategy for Asia and U.S. policy-makers said to Latin America, 'Look out for yourselves!'"

Roett's reference to the Marshall Plan, under which the States provided massive amounts of aid to Europe after World War II, clearly upset an unidentified dissenter in the crowd. Prompting nervous glances from FAS members seated across the aisle, the middle-aged man took two minutes out of the concluding question and answer session to state his personal views.

"Inevitably, someone always mentions the Marshall Plan," he said. "While they redeveloped Europe, they neglected Africa, and the same thing happened in South America ... Of course Latin America does not have an infrastructure, U.S. businesses controlled Latin America." After the panel members declined to respond to his statements, the man left.

"He had a different view than our panelists, but he never asked a question," sophomore FAS staff member Max Cohen explained after the discussion ended. "He stated his views, but he never gave the panelists a chance to respond or state their opinions."

"We let everyone come," co-chair and junior Anne Smedinghoff agreed. "It's good to hear all sides. But his manner of presenting his side was not appropri-

## Controversial website provides mask of anonymity

By **MING WEN**  
News-Letter Staff Writer

They're silent, always clicking, but not always contributing.

Known on the Internet as "lurkers," they represent the vast majority of visitors to anonymous message boards, including one which has quickly grown into something of a phenomenon at Hopkins: JHU Confessions.

Launched in January and envisioned as a free speech haven for students, participants have pushed the limits of that freedom, leading to an increase in content moderation, though the University has no plans to interfere with the site.

"It's a good thing for students on campus so I'm glad [the administration is] not making a move against us," said the JHU Confessions webmaster, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity. "I'm a little surprised."

When posts mentioning suicide began to appear, JHU Confessions' moderators started actively interfering in the anonymous student discussions. In a thread titled "Reasons not to commit suicide?" the majority of replies advised the student to seek professional help, but the moderators quickly deleted those that did not.

"I'll jump in every once in a while and delete posts," the webmaster said.

At the beginning, JHU Confessions, which was inspired by similar anonymous student forums at Wesleyan University and Oberlin College, did not restrict discussions. Now, potentially harmful posts, like those encouraging suicide, will be removed and the moderators will ban users who repeatedly post similar comments, since they simply clutter the discussions.

Though the student moderators have placed more restrictions on the site, the University currently has no plans to take action against JHU Confessions. However, it reserves the right to notify students against visiting it, should enough complaints be heard.

"If enough students weren't happy with it, we could probably say this is a site that students wouldn't want to visit," Dorothy Sheppard, associate dean of student affairs, said.

Sheppard explained that before the University takes any proactive measures to restrict visitation to the site, it must gather more research and listen to more student testimonies, neither of which it currently does.

JHU Confessions' webmaster sees administration interference as a possibility, but not an immediate threat.

"I can't think of a situation, but I'm sure one exists, where they would have a legitimate reason where they'd want" to know a user's identity, the webmaster said.

But the webmaster could imagine how the administration would be justified in taking any action. For the webmaster, it is a matter of free speech: "If someone made some racist comment, he's free to make that comment. He may be an idiot but that doesn't mean people won't make those comments any more."

Though the administration is keenly aware of the existence of JHU Confessions, the Hopkins

Counseling Center remains ignorant.

Michael Mond, director of the Center, said University counseling services were not aware of JHU Confessions and do not search the Internet for students who may need assistance.

"If a student brings up an Internet encounter in their counseling session we would most likely help the student process that experience and their reaction," Mond said. "We would probably help the student think through any advice received so they could decide if it was good or bad advice."

For Sheppard it is easy to see why the site has not generated more buzz with University administrators.

"I think it's kind of a worthless site," she said. "It's just a bunch of people posting things that other people don't know is true or false. It's a place that could cause a lot of people to receive bad info, bad advice, or hurtful comments."

Mond echoed this sentiment. "Sometimes the problem with these websites is that people are not always telling the truth. Some of the stuff is potentially harmful or distressing," he said.

But the webmaster disagrees. "I think that there are a lot of good important discussions going on that otherwise wouldn't

have [occurred]," the webmaster said. "There are tons of posts that are stupid, harmless fun. There was a wonderful post about racism that was surprisingly good intellectual discussion."

One such recent discussion found students approaching the topic of interracial relationships with a candor rarely seen among strangers.

"I didn't think many people were bothered by interracial relationships anymore. I'm in one myself and have never considered it unusual," one anonymous user wrote.

"I'm a white girl, and although I don't morally oppose interracial relationships, I would never date a guy who's a different race or religion than I am. My family would freak out, and I think it would just put unnecessary stress on a relationship

to be from such different backgrounds," another user replied.

Some of the most popular stories address such key issues as suicide prevention, gay and bisexual life, and the world after college.

A number of posts on the Web site discussed the difficulties of gay life on campus, and provided a means for gay, lesbian and bisexual students to find support.

But the president of the JHU Diverse Sexuality and Gender Al-

liance, Keshav Khanijow, doubts how useful the site is as a means of "coming out."

"If it's anonymous, you're coming out to yourself, but you're not really coming out to anyone; you're coming out to a fictional world," Khanijow said.

Although many comments left by Hopkins students suggest an underlying feeling that the campus community tends to be "subtly intolerant," there are gems of clarity to be found in many posts on JHU Confessions.

"There are so many visible things that people can discriminate based on like skin, gender, some religions. Sexuality is a rarity. It doesn't fall into the category of a visible minority like so many others. By giving sexuality strict boundaries it is far easier to categorize, and form a them-vs.-us kind of mentality," one anonymous user told the *News-Letter*.

"There are lots of actual good discussion, from racism, to sexuality, to politics; there are lots of conversations going on here," another user told the *News-Letter*. The user would prefer if there were more discussions and less "mindless entertainment."

Though JHU Confessions' purpose is to foster discussion, many students seem to think it's just a way to fight boredom.

"College kids plus anonymity equals totally ridiculous comments," freshman Diego Ardila said.

"I think that it's a cool place for people to go where they can talk anonymously, but people have to be careful not to take it too seriously," freshman Mike Maiale said.

HOME

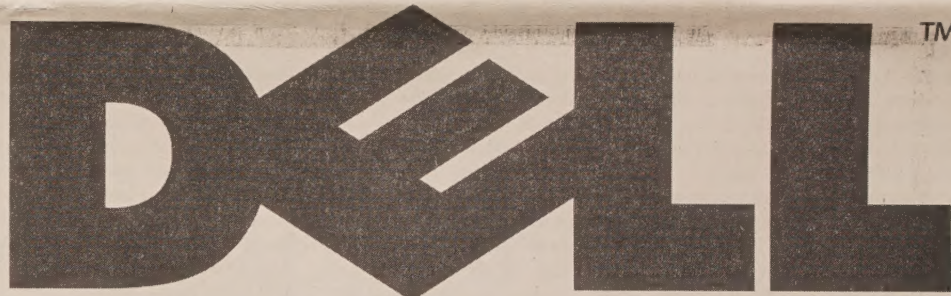
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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# Stiglitz addresses Iraq war economic aftermath

By JAMES ZHE  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz spoke about his newest publication, "The Three Trillion Dollar War," — an economic perspective on the Iraq war's social, political and monetary costs — on Tuesday night's Foreign Affairs Symposium to a receptive audience.

According to government estimates, the U.S. has already spent over \$600 billion on the war in Iraq, but Stiglitz disagrees with these approximations.

"The U.S. went to war with an estimated initial budget of \$100 to 200 billion ... things have turned out pretty differently. We are now spending 12 billion a month," he said. "The conservative estimate of the cost of war is between \$3 to 5 trillion."

In order to put this high price tag into perspective, Stiglitz compared the cost of the war with the funding required for fixing the Social Security system.

"Roughly for the one-sixth of the cost of the Iraq war, we could have put the Social Security system into sound standing," Stiglitz said. In fact, he claimed, the United States could even double the amount of aid given to Africa "with the cost of a few days of fighting in Iraq."

According to Stiglitz, the primary factor in this \$3 to 5 trillion estimate is the \$12 billion per month that it costs just to support the troops on the ground.

Further into the discussion, Stiglitz also noted the danger of building debt in order to pay for the war.

"This is the first war that was paid by America's credit card. When we went to war, we [already had] a deficit," Stiglitz said. "40 percent of our deficit has been financed abroad."

Stiglitz also noted that the standard U.S. Army "death gratuity" for those killed in the war is \$500,000. However, this number does not include the enormous cost of a series of other compensations as well as the lost economic productivity of the individual, according to Stiglitz.

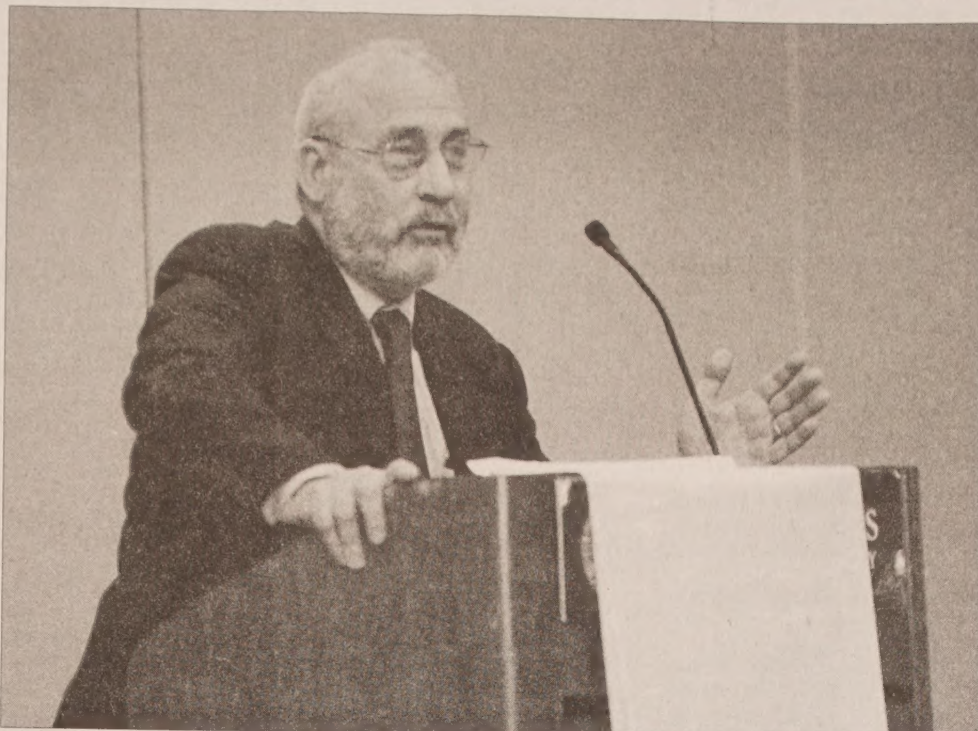
He also maintained that the state of America's economic performance and the effects of the ongoing war are related. To a large extent, the economy is negatively affected by the war.

"We know that wars can stimulate the economy according to Keynes's economics. However, we also know that you don't have to fight a war to get the economy right," he said. "The Iraq war expenditures actually do not stimulate the economy as much as improvements in education, health care and other social programs in the long run."

According to Stiglitz, another depressing effect the war has on the U.S. economy is the large accumulation of national debt.

"Deficits do matter," he said, warning policy makers not to overlook the potential damaging effects of the permanent state of deficit spending.

The current increasing national debt could also have the potential to lower private capital investments, thereby provoking a general slowdown in relatively stable economic growth that America



On Tuesday, economist Joseph Stiglitz discussed the "credit-card war" in Iraq and its impact on the growing national deficit.

has experienced since 2003.

Most importantly, he called for a more comprehensive system of checks and balances to curtail U.S. military power around the globe.

Finally, Stiglitz talked about one of today's most controversial policy issues — bringing back the troops:

"If we leave today, there will probably be chaos. If we leave in four years, there will probably be chaos as well, though most Iraqis will probably want us to leave today."

In fact, even if America does

stabilize the situation there, Stiglitz emphasized that Iraq is only a small country within the entire region.

"Terrorism will probably move to other countries, and all in all, is this the right way to spend trillions of dollars just for a possible national security threat?"

In his concluding remarks, Stiglitz re-emphasized the importance of citizens and taxpayers being fully informed about the true cost of an ongoing war.

"We went to the war for the sake of democracy, and part of being informed in a democracy

is knowing the cost [and] making the cost of the war transparent to the people. The true cost of this war is that we will pay the cost of this war in the decades to come."

Stiglitz is currently a professor at Columbia University's Business School, Graduate School (in economics) and School of International and Public Affairs.

He was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics in 2001 and was also a member of the Council of Economic Advisors from 1993-1995 for the Clinton administration.

# Hinduism lets students link tradition with modernity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1  
obstacles and in ones path and to help us attain enlightenment," said Maneesha Jamnada, vice president of the Hindu Students Council.

Hinduism, practiced by nearly a billion people worldwide, is the oldest major world religion.

At Hopkins, a relatively small number of students — about 4.6 percent of the student body — identifies as Hindu, according to a 2007 poll conducted by the Interfaith Center.

Almost all of the members of the Council practice their religion at home as well as at college, and for many of them, the weekly meetings are a low-key way of keeping in touch with both religion and familial traditions.

"I think of Hinduism predominantly as a way of living life. There are no commandments; instead, Hinduism stresses living a good and righteous life," graduate student Nirdhar Khazanie said. "Hinduism teaches us that everyone is born with a place in society and that your responsibility is to do your duties as an adult in the community."

"Hindu students at Hopkins do more on their own when it comes to their faith," said Shyam Khatau, president of the Hindu Students Council.

"We provide weekly meetings and celebrate major festivals, but we see our group as providing a stress-free place for students to practice their faith and learn."

Each year the Council's largest event is Diwali, the festival that celebrates the Hindu New Year. The festival becomes a gathering where students, parents and fac-

ulty enjoy food, traditional singing and dancing.

Current weekly meetings are used to plan Holi, the upcoming festival to welcome the arrival of spring.

"Sometimes we discuss a chapter from the Bhagavad Gita, one of the major Hindu scriptures. Once, we talked about the significance of the phrase om in prayer," Khatau said.

But students also spend time discussing the difficulties of being Hindu in a Western culture.

Most students say they do not feel any conflict between their religious life and student life, stressing that many aspects of Hinduism merely reinforce virtues that they already hope to uphold.

"Respect and tolerance are large parts of Hinduism. There's no aspect of conversion to the religion — if you wish to be Hindu, you can be. Hinduism is a way of thinking; it's not a religion that is particularly governed by rules," sophomore Abhiram Bhashyam said.

Best encapsulating the philosophy of Hinduism is, according to Khatau, is "the truth is one."

"It means that there's no one particular way to obtain truthfulness, that many possible paths exist," Khatau said.

According to the students on the Council, despite the religion's longevity and global popularity, there are many pervasive misconceptions of Hinduism.

For one, Jamnada said, "Hinduism is a monotheistic religion. The many gods most people recognize are different representations or attributes of God."

# Council members express disappointment with search committee student

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1  
perspectives on it. Maybe they felt that my background would contribute to that," Herzer said. Herzer is a public health major and co-chair of the pre-med honor society. He was previously on the committee that selected the new assistant dean for academic advising, and last year he was a member of the diversity leadership council.

Herzer suggested that he may have been chosen, in part, because of his involvement in selecting the assistant dean.

He was surprised that the University chose him over Student Council members but emphasized that he is open to collaborating with them.

"I would love to work with them very closely," he said.

Bierbryer nominated freshman class president Dan Teran and Kate Jacob, junior senator for legislation. Although he would have liked to open up the selection process to the entire student body in order to select the most representative member, Bierbryer did not think that he could do so in the time he was allotted. Instead, he looked for student council members who would be well qualified for the search, and who could manage the time commitment.

"I thought the fairest way to do it within that amount of time

was to solicit it within Student Council," he said.

Like other Council members, Bierbryer expressed that he was not necessarily disappointed with Herzer as a choice. Rather, he thought the Trustees should have chosen a second undergraduate, one who was elected by the student body.

The Board of Trustees has invited the Council to join them in an open forum where students may voice their opinions on the search criteria. Herzer said he is more than willing to attend the event and wants to hear the student body's concerns. The forum will take place within the next two weeks.

Bierbryer noted that the nominees were interviewed by administrators, not Trustees.

"I think the fear is that we [Student Council] are being filtered before we can talk to the trustees," he said, also noting that there may be a conflict of interest if a member of the Office of the President decides who is on the committee to select the new president. This sentiment is one that was echoed a number of times at Council meetings.

He said he would be more comfortable if the trustees made the decision directly, rather than through administrators.

"I think it's difficult for any members of the administration

to know if any member of the student body is really indicative of student thought," Bierbryer said. "I was really appreciative that Dean Burger recommended that I make nominations, though."

"Perhaps the student they selected will be more agreeable with the administration than my nominations," he said. "But," he noted, "that doesn't necessarily mean he's not representative of the student body."

Council Vice President for Activities Andrew Gerba noted that, although accomplished, Herzer is not representative of the student body. Rather, with all of his academic accomplishments, "he is the exception."

He also thinks the decision not to include a student council member was simply neglectful.

"This is just another example in a long list of incidences when Student Council have not been selected as representatives of the student body, when the student body elected them in the first place," he said.

Bierbryer noted that, although Herzer seems to be "a great guy," he is not sure that he can fully understand the Council's experiences.

"I'm not sure how prepared he would be to represent the issues we've had with the administration," he said.

Sophomore class president Nate Levin hoped to be considered for the position but was not able to express his interest quickly enough to be interviewed.

"I was led to believe that I would have an equal opportunity to interview with everyone else, but I was never contacted," he said. "I'm disappointed and mystified as to why there wasn't better communication and why Student Council didn't have a bigger role in the process."

Unlike Gerba, Levin does not think this incident should be lumped together with the Council's previous tense relations with the administration.

"I don't want to make this into another confrontation with the administration," he said.

Council members also wanted to make it clear that they did not feel a sense of entitlement in the situation. Rather, they emphasized that they are the only elected representatives of the student body.

"The administration doesn't seem to recognize that," sophomore senator for legislation Evan Lazerowitz said. "I thought our input should have been given."

Although the administration did make an effort to include the council to some extent, Lazerowitz noted that they only gave Bierbryer a half of a day to come up with nominees.

"It's a very important choice and I think we should have been given more time," Lazerowitz said.

Lazerowitz emphasized that he has no personal qualms with their final choice for a representative of the undergraduates. But, he noted, "it's a matter of principle. We've been elected to do a job — represent the student body — and we're trying to do it." He thinks the administration has, once again, neglected to let them do their job.

George Washington University included their student body president in their presidential search committee, which ultimately chose Steven Knapp, previously Hopkins's provost.

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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## News in Brief

## Peabody alumna named dean of the Conservatory

The Peabody Institute has appointed alumna Mellasenah Morris as the dean of the Conservatory and deputy director of the Institute.

Morris, who is also a former assistant dean for academic affairs at Peabody, will succeed Wolfgang Justen starting on July 1. Justen has served as dean since 2002 but he will retire from the position this year and continue teaching part time.

Currently Morris is a professor of piano and the director of the School of Music at Ohio State University. She received her bachelor and doctoral degrees from Peabody. Her New York debut recital was in Carnegie Recital Hall.

In addition to working at Peabody, she has been a faculty member at Baltimore City College and Villa Julie College. Her administrative posts include being dean of Alabama State University's School of Music and director of James Madison University's School of Music.

Aside from her academic positions, Morris is a member of the national music honor society Pi Kappa Lambda and is treasurer of the executive committee of the board of the National Association of Schools of Music.

## New nursing program to draw more teachers

A new program providing financial support to doctoral students of the Hopkins School of Nursing will be offered to those who desire to teach student nurses in New York City.

The funding will be awarded by the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence Nursing Scholars Program.

Those accepted will receive a maximum of \$280,000 in forgivable loans for tuition and sti-

pend on living expenses. One scholar from Hopkins will be accepted and must agree to complete the Ph.D program within four years, execute dissertation research in New York City and spend four years teaching in the metropolitan area after graduation.

The selected Jonas scholar will attend Hopkins from September 2008 until August 2010. Then, the student will go to New York until May 2012 to do the dissertation study.

The scholar will perform research within the areas of health disparities, geriatrics, violence or end-of-life care and will have access to many resources in the city through partnered offices. The application deadline for the program is April 21.

## Sociology's DeLuca named William T. Grant scholar

The William T. Grant Foundation has selected Stefanie DeLuca, assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, as a scholar for its fellowship for young scholars whose research is in the areas of social and behavioral sciences.

DeLuca will receive a \$350,000 prize which she will use over the next five years to study to impact of moving on American youths in a project called "Moving Matters: Residential Mobility, Neighborhoods and Family in

the Lives of Poor Adolescents." DeLuca's goal is to determine conditions that dictate whether moving is beneficial or detrimental to young people's development.

The new study will build on her previous study of families leaving poor neighborhoods, which she worked on with the Gautreaux and Moving to Opportunity housing voucher programs.

In "Moving Matters," DeLuca will speak with mothers living in poverty in Mobile, Ala. about their motivations for moving and how moving affects their families.

DeLuca graduated from Northwestern University's Human Development and Social Policy program and is one of just four scholars to be selected for the Grant fellowship this year.

## Temple student convicted on child porn charges

A doctoral student at Temple University in Philadelphia was convicted of possessing and attempting to possess child pornography.

A jury found Roderick Vosburgh guilty on one count of attempted possession and one count of possession after the student was identified in a 2006 FBI sting operation designed to find perpetrators of the crime.

Vosburgh's attorney has filed a motion for acquittal, but the prosecution responded with a detailed statement of the charges against Vosburgh, including his attempt to access a message board post created by an FBI agent. The post claimed to include a video of a 4-year-old girl



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Many schools, including Georgia State University, are criticizing the NCAA's excessive use of alcohol ads during game telecasts.

engaging in sexual acts with her father. Instead, clicking on the links contained in the post sent the users' IP addresses to the agent's computer.

The FBI linked Vosburgh to three attempts to access the material.

During a warranted search of Vosburgh's residence, the FBI found two thumbnails of child pornographic photos on his hard drive.

Vosburgh is set to return to court for sentencing later this month.

## Colleges urge NCAA to air fewer beer ads during televised games

More than 100 college presidents signed a letter addressed to NCAA President Myles Brand that criticized the organization for excessive beer advertisements during televised broadcasts of NCAA tournament games.

Washington, D.C.'s Center for Science in the Public Interest helped write the letter and said that the NCAA violated its own regulations concerning beer commercials. NCAA policy states that

beer advertising must be limited to 60 seconds per hour and 120 seconds per telecast.

According to the Center, 200 seconds and 240 seconds of beer commercials were aired during last Saturday's two games, and another 270 were counted during Monday night's final. Signatories of the letter to Brand urged the NCAA to review its alcohol advertising policies.

Among the schools to sign the letter were Harvard, Georgia State and Abilene Christian, in addition to four schools that qualified for this year's NCAA tournament: Baylor, Winthrop, Cornell and University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

## U. of Wisconsin, Madison student killed in home

Last week Madison, Wis. police found a 21-year-old University of Wisconsin junior dead in her apartment. The report issued by the Dane County coroner's office later declared the death of the student, Brittany Zimmerman, a homicide, citing "a complexity of traumatic injuries" as the cause of death.

Police believe the perpetrator to be one of the many homeless people who populate the

downtown Madison area, and their investigation currently remains focused on that group. Zimmerman's boyfriend, a fellow UW student, is not a suspect in the murder investigation.

Other break-ins and burglary attempts in Zimmerman's neighborhood on the day of her murder led police to believe that a member of the transient population is responsible for Zimmerman's death, as the homeless are known to commit many such crimes in the area.

Zimmerman was a microbiology and immunology major who was considering applying to medical school. This week her family created a scholarship fund called "Dollars for Brittany" to honor the slain student's life.

— All briefs written by Alex Vockroth



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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Peter Babcox, a community organizer, has cooperated with Hopkins students to enhance the nearby Remington neighborhood.

## Remington plants seeds for the future

Community's plans to beautify the neighborhood come to fruition with Babcox's leadership

By PHYLLIS ZHU  
News-Letter Staff Writer

With one knee planted in the dirt, the man known as the "Urban Johnny Appleseed" gently cups the beaming yellow petals of a daffodil.

The blue box that encloses the cluster of flowers is just one of 80 boxes that line the sidewalks of the Remington neighborhood, which spans from Wyman Park Drive to North Ave.

"I like to plant unusual flowers, because you never know what's going to pop up," said a white-bearded Peter Babcox, who has been an integral part of the beautification of the Remington neighborhood since he arrived in Baltimore almost 30 years ago.

Upon receiving the Baltimore Community Fellowship in 2005 from the Open Society Institute, a private organization that funds individual philanthropic projects, Babcox began work on what eventually evolved into the Remington Public Gardens Project.

The program builds optimism in the neighborhood by creating a public garden that is distributed throughout the neighborhood, so that "bit by bit, people will notice the flowers and begin to feel proud of [their] neighborhood," Babcox said.

"Poor kids in a neighborhood like this grow up with a fairly acute sense of powerlessness. So many of them experience evictions, and so many families just suddenly disappear. [Children] don't have much autonomy or decision-making power in school [or] their homes," the former kindergarten teacher said.

When the project was first initiated in November 2005, Babcox's enthusiasm was met with apathy from the neighborhood. Thanks to volunteers from the Church of the Guardian Angel, where Babcox attends services, about 20 blue boxes were seeded.

Although the lampposts held notices for volunteers, Babcox received little support from residents.

"The decision was impulsive and naïve at the same time," Babcox admitted. "I thought, if the children saw me digging outside they would be curious and want to help — dig up worms, hear stories, make things — but they were more interested in watching television. Lack of interest was a source of frustration."

After the flowers had bloomed in the summer of 2006, Babcox, along with six high school students sent from the inner city, worked daily in the blistering heat, dragging buckets of water to maintain the garden.

Since then, news of the Public Gardens Project has spread, attracting volunteers from the neighborhood, other parts of the city and Hopkins.

Several fraternities and sororities, including Alpha Phi Omega and Delta Psi Phi, as well as the Center For Social Concern and interested individuals have participated in the project.

"I think the project has a big impact on Remington. We're making the streets a better place to walk, and it sparks the collective imagination of youth and people," said senior Iris Chan, who volunteers every other week.

The Delta Psi Phi sister has seen the community coming alive around the project. "When we're grubbing around on the sidewalk, people ask what we're doing. One time a little girl came out and grabbed a shovel and joined us. People really do enjoy it," she said.

"Hopkins students know Remington as a 'sketchy' neighborhood, but more recently [they] are talking about it as cool, and that's a very significant evolution. The University is an enormous resource in terms of able-bodied, willing and good-humored volunteers," Babcox said.

Although the lampposts held notices for volunteers, Babcox received little support from residents.

He credited Hopkins students with the project's improvement, and was pleased that students could be seen as good adult role models for local children.

Still, overarching problems with the program are the inconsistent workforce and lack of funding. Although Remington is located immediately next to the University, students have been wary to explore and become involved in the tight-knit community.

"It's not exactly an area you want to be in. [By volunteering], it shows that we care. It keeps the streets cleaner and helps the people who don't really feel like they have hope," said Mary Duckett, a student advocacy board member at the Center for Social Concern.

The man with the green thumb is currently structuring a proposal for the Remington Youth Conservation Corps, a new community organization that would recruit teens to maintain the gardens, germinate seeds in the spring and pick up trash as a part-time job.

One of the major problems that affects the health and aesthetic value of the community is the overwhelming amount of trash on the streets.

"The trash is an oppressive thing. I would look down some of these alleys with a sinking heart, and I could understand this pall of passivity that lies over the neighborhood. A kind of pessimism settles over a neighborhood with urban problems," Babcox said.

Although the city provides trash cans, the waste was not collected. Babcox has planned a beautification project called The Bucket Scheme, where uniquely hand-decorated buckets will be hung on every lamp pole in the neighborhood.

But Babcox will not be around to see the neighborhood continue to grow. He will be relocating to Australia at the end of the year.

"Frankly, I feel like if I were to leave next week, the whole project would collapse, but who knows, things happen in strange and mysterious ways. Maybe I'm planting something that comes to bloom long afterward," he said.

## Agre reflects on Nobel Prize, career

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1  
world health problems, much of his initial research as a student centered on cholera. After his clinical training, Agre focused much more on basic research of red blood cells, discovering the molecular basis for several diseases.

It was while investigating the molecular basis for Rh blood complex that Agre and his research team isolated the contaminating protein.

The protein contaminant turned out to be Aquaporin I, the first of 13 proteins discovered so far that are responsible for the movement of water in and out of the cell.

For a hundred years, the consensus was that water moved passively through the cell membrane without the aid of channel proteins. However, this theory did not sit well with many in the scientific community.

With the aid of other Hopkins doctors, Agre began investigating the protein.

"Once we figured out what it was, it was a great joy because we had figured out some new insight into a very long standing problem," Agre said.

When asked for a "dumbed-down" explanation of how these proteins work, Agre said, "When I was a student here, there was a wonderful faculty member here named Dan Nathans who shared the Nobel [Prize] for his discovery of restriction enzymes. And I remember distinctly an interview he had with the press. When they asked him to explain his work, and before he started they said, 'We are not scientists, we can never understand it.' He responded by saying, 'The details are complicated, but the principles are elegant and simple.' I think that is a very wise statement."

Aquaporins work as a molecular "plumbing system" for the cells. The proteins act like a sieve, allowing water through but preventing the passage of larger molecules into the cell. The pores

accelerate the movement of water by osmosis. There is no ion-pump or co-transport system driving this process.

In 2003, Agre received the Nobel Prize for his discovery of aquaporins.

He considered the award "a pleasant surprise. People would look at the research and say 'this is a big breakthrough in science' but I didn't believe it. I certainly didn't go to medical school thinking I was going to win a Nobel Prize."

According to Agre, there is an element of luck in science. "There are many, many scientists who are far more proficient than I am and have made important observations, but these observations wouldn't be considered the basic discoveries that the Nobel [judges] look for," he said.

So what is the key to winning a Nobel Prize?

"It is being in the right place at the right time, with your eyes wide open," Agre said.

Since winning the award, Agre's presence has been felt nationwide.

He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2000 and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003.

He is a founding member of Scientists and Engineers for America (SEA), and serves on its board of advisors.

"The SEA is meant to be a constructive organization. It is something I would love to see here at Johns Hopkins," Agre said, adding that he was willing to help students interested in forming a chapter.

In 2006, Agre was a guest on *The Colbert Report*.

"At first, I didn't know what it was," Agre said.

After taking advice from his children, Agre appeared on the show, bringing his Nobel Prize medal by request.

When asked by Stephen Colbert if one can

get a Nobel Prize for throwing his own feces, Agre said, "that is the economics prize."

But the fame that comes with winning a Nobel Prize has a downside.

"The Nobel was a very pleasant event, though overwhelming. [It] makes it a little difficult to be yourself sometimes. People expect brilliant statements and insights far beyond what I can generate," Agre said.

For Agre, his current work at the Malaria Research Institute allows him to return to his first passion as a medical student — research of world health problems.

"I am in the last decade of my academic career. I want to do something very useful, and there is a very good chance I can do something useful here," Agre said.

After serving as a Vice-Chancellor at Duke for three years, Agre returned to Hopkins this year to act as director of the University's Malaria Research Institute at the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"So I am involved in all of that, and I also have a day job at the Malaria Institute," Agre said.

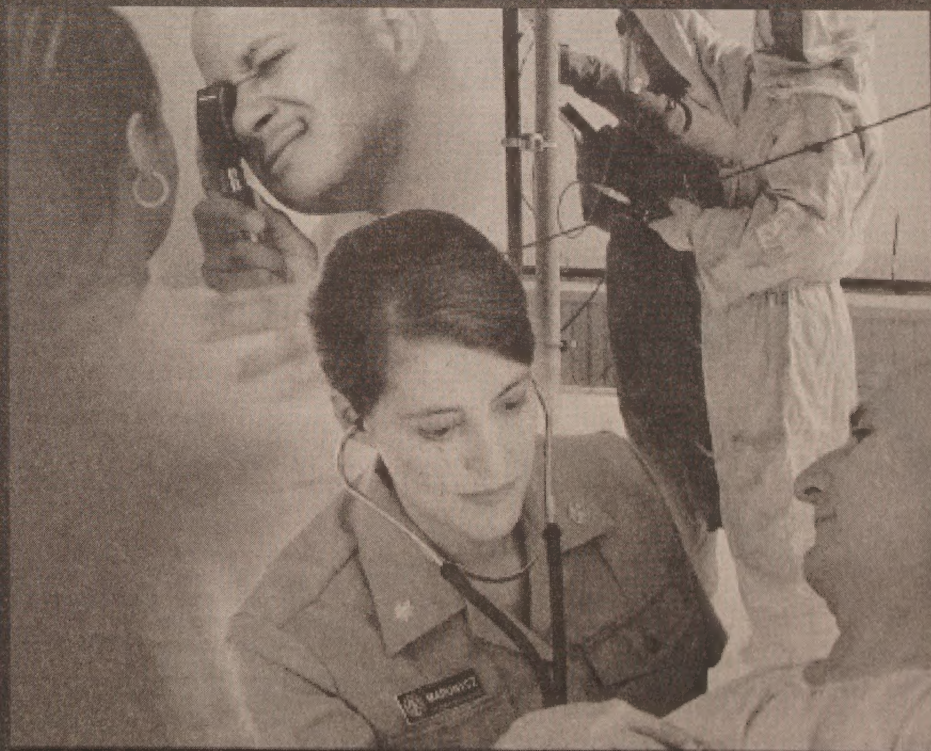
In his limited spare time, Agre enjoys the outdoors. Agre loves to go hiking and camping. In the summer, he canoes in the Arctic.

In the end, Agre sums up his legacy in an epitaph: "Loyal to Johns Hopkins, Constant in Admiration of the Natural World, He loved his family."

### CORRECTIONS

In the April 2 issue of the *News-Letter*, on page B3, the article "Last Week Live" should have been credited to Alex Begley.

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### SECURITY ALERTS

Between April 4 at 6:00 p.m. and April 5 at 3:14 a.m.:

The AM-FM radio/CD-player in the dashboard of a graduate student's parked vehicle was stolen. Entry had been obtained by prying open the car's sunroof. Baltimore Police responded.

April 5 at 1:40 a.m.:

A senior undergraduate reported that, without provocation, he was pushed and then struck twice in the face by a contract security employee of the BSU Dance at the Glass Pavilion. The Baltimore Police responded and wrote an assault report. The student was brought to Union Memorial Hospital for minor injuries; he was treated and released. The contract security employee was not associated with the University. The investigation is continuing.

April 5 between 12:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.:

An undergraduate student discovered that one of the tires on his parked vehicle and two of the tires on his roommate's vehicle had been flattened. There was no evidence of cuts or punctures on the tires. The investigation is continuing.



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# Faculty wary of peer review grad rankings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Researchers ask deans, program directors and senior faculty members to judge the academic quality of the programs in their field on a scale of 1 to 5.

According to Nicolas Jones, dean of the Whiting School of Engineering, these measures are invalid for judging the quality of a program.

"[The rankings are] purely a beauty contest," Jones said. "It's just an opinions ranking. You may see general improvement over time as different departments do a better job at getting the word out, but these [rankings] are based purely on opinions of deans and department heads. Whether you love the rankings or hate them, there's nothing quantitative about them."

Last spring, the Annapolis Group, a group of 19 liberal arts colleges, decided to opt out of the undergraduate *U.S. News* rankings altogether, citing the policy

of peer review as its primary reason.

According to Lattman, the graduate programs do not have similar options for withdrawing from the rankings.

Amanda Anderson, chair of the graduate English department, said that while she understands the criticism toward the *US News* rankings, she would not necessarily support a total boycott of the rankings, but rather the development of additional rankings systems.

"I would like to see people contest these particular rankings through different ways of presenting academic programs," Anderson said.

According to Lattman, there are various lesser-known ranking systems that are more thorough in their research. Lattman said that one organization in particular, Academic Analytics, collects information that more accurately represents the quality of programs.

Lattman said the organization normalizes their survey with specificity to department size, while *US News* does not. With a survey based solely on reputation and name recognition, the size of the department makes a large impact.

"When there are large departments, there are more names to recognize. Since our departments are typically half the size of those of our peer schools, we think this hurts us," Lattman said.

Because of this normalization, Academic Analytics typically ranks Hopkins higher than *US News* does.

The publication placed the School of Medicine as the second best of its kind in the country, and the Bloomberg School of Public Health maintained its position as the best in the country.

The program in Biological Sciences was placed sixth in the rankings, and although the history and English rankings haven't been updated since 2005, Hopkins ranked ninth and eighth, respectively, at that time.

*U.S. News* did not rank the year-old Carey Business School this year because, although it is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, it is not yet accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Yash Gupta, dean of the Business School, said that he does not expect *US News* to adequately rank the School once it becomes accredited.

"Business schools tend to produce very unstable rankings. If you look around at the rankings, any business school can jump 10 points from one year to the next. One year cannot change the level of the quality of the school, so this shows that the ranking systems are not robust," Gupta said.

Gupta listed several reasons for the discrepancies in business school rankings. He explained that the rankings are generally based on the number of applications received and the number of students matriculated,

and that a heavy emphasis is placed on GPA, while a high GPA from Hopkins is harder to earn than a high GPA from a lower-ranked school.

The rankings also calibrate how many students receive employment offerings within three months of graduation, and how high their starting salaries are. According to Gupta, these figures don't reflect the quality of a school or its students.

"Employment offerings don't tell you anything about how good a school is. If you live in New York City, it's harder to get a job than it would be if you lived somewhere else. If you're an entrepreneur, obviously your starting salary is quite low, but that doesn't mean you won't be successful," Gupta said.

University spokesman Dennis O'Shea said that rankings in general, no matter which publication they come from, should not influence applicants.

"Finding the right school for a particular student is not a process that can be reduced to a formula. This is a highly subjective choice," he said. "Rankings, in other words, lend a false air of precision to the college choice."

Anderson said she thinks that the quality of Hopkins's academic programs speaks for itself.

"I don't think we need the *U.S. News & World Report*. I don't think our reputation is dependent upon them. I think our reputation is reflected in the rankings, not created by them," Anderson said.

Gupta expressed similar opinions. He said that he hopes to attract applicants who trust in Hopkins's pursuit of academic excellence, rather than those who apply because of rankings.

According to Lattman, the University will not be tailoring its graduate programs to garner higher scores in any way, nor will it urge its faculty to sacrifice quality for rankings.

"The rankings are generally more important for telling alumni how we're doing than for attracting applicants. When we talk to applicants about why they apply, the *U.S. News & World Report* isn't often mentioned," Lattman said.

Jim Digloria, an applicant for the Hopkins Liberal Arts Master's Program, said that he quickly figured out that he should not rely on the rankings.

"I did research, and I learned that there were hidden gems that the *US News & World Report* didn't recognize. They place emphasis on schools that are prominent; they use the same five schools over and over again," he said. "I think you can use the rankings, but not rely on them."

# USAID denies asking for "abortion" keyword block

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

USAID did not ask for the articles' removal or for the removal of "abortion" as a keyword.

The USAID is prohibited by law from funding organizations or projects that advocate abortion as a means for family planning.

"In my judgment, the decision to block the search term was an overreaction on the part of the POPLINE staff," said Michael Klag, dean of the Bloomberg School in a press release Tuesday. "Other measures are available to us for ensuring that items in the POPLINE database meet USAID guidelines."

Klag learned of the block on Friday, nearly two months after its initiation, and immediately called for it to be lifted, saying the move "was not consistent with the values of the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Our school is dedicated to the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and not to its restriction."

Klag was unavailable for direct comment before press time. POPLINE moderators acted without consulting administrators at the Bloomberg School. "The blocking of the term was a step taken without informing the management of the Public Health school," said Tim Parsons, a spokesman for the Bloomberg School.

The matter came to Klag's attention after librarians at the Medical Center of the University of California, San Francisco, began circulating this information among their co-workers. In an April 6 report, the *New York Times* said that following inquiries into what initially seemed like a technical difficulty, the UCSF librarians were informed in a Tuesday email from Debra Dickson, senior programmer analyst at POPLINE, that "abortion" had become one of the database's stop words.

Debra Dickson was not available for a comment at press time.

According to Dickson's e-mail, the block was temporary and was meant to bring POPLINE into

better accordance with USAID regulations.

Reactions to the block have been mostly critical. Posts to a discussion board at *Wired.com* claimed the block was a violation of first amendment rights and that the U.S. government was becoming as stifling as China's.

"Freedom of the press, unless of course, you receive federal funds!" one anonymous poster wrote.

Another alleged grad school applicant wrote on the site that he would withdraw his application to Hopkins following this news.

For 30 years, the Bloomberg School has administered POPLINE, the world's largest database on reproduction and family development, though the project essentially belongs to USAID.

"We have an agreement with USAID to manage the POPLINE database, and there are agreements about what goes in and what should not be there," Parsons said.

Abortion advocacy is not permitted under federal laws passed in 1973.

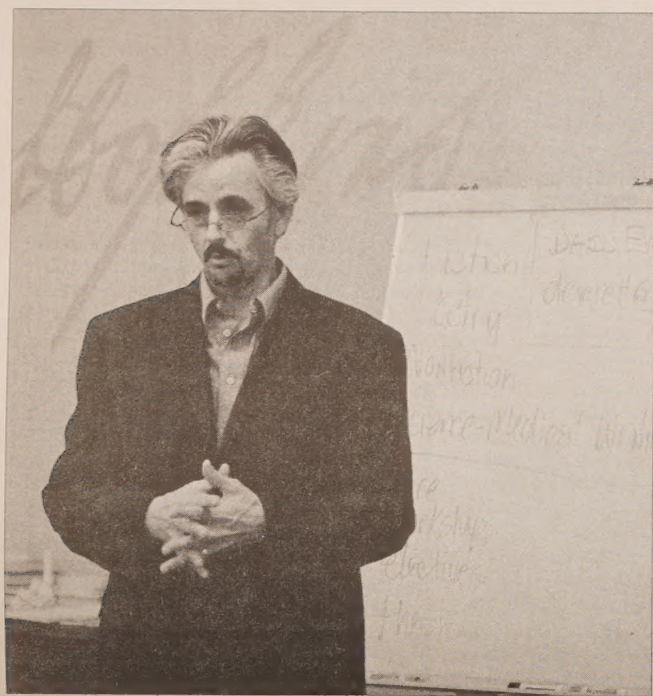
"USAID policy is, anything that is abortion statistics or care is completely appropriate," the USAID Spokesperson said. "Because of the laws imposed on us, we're not allowed to support abortion advocacy."

The seven articles removed from the database came from the winter 2008 edition of *A: the Abortion Magazine*, which focused on abortion as a human right.

"The Center for Communication Programs and the Bloomberg School of Public Health deeply regret the action that was taken to restrict the use of the search term. Unfettered access to information is essential for informed debate and rational choices in any field, especially in family planning," Klag said. "We will work with our staff to reinforce their appreciation of the importance of academic integrity and of the central role of universities in our society in the dissemination of information."

**In my judgment, the decision to block the search term was an overreaction on the part of the POPLINE staff.**

—MICHAEL KLAG,  
DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Hopkins's graduate programs in the arts were highly ranked in *U.S. News*. David Everett is senior associate program chair for the Master's of Arts in Writing program.

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## New plan aims to improve faculty diversity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

School of Arts and Sciences has a total of 261 faculty members, 65 of whom are female. The Whiting School of Engineering had in the past less than 10 percent of its faculty as women; the current statistic is now close to 20 percent. The gender division varies by subject field and school.

Women tend to be better represented within the humanities, but underrepresented in the science disciplines. Falk says that this trend is representational of the national scene. He explained that academic careers tend to be very long, and there are issues that influence the number of women in academic professions.

In engineering, the pool of potential faculty members who belong to certain minorities, such as Native Americans, are so small as to be almost nonexistent. This makes it increasingly difficult to identify and hire these minorities, perhaps accounting for the fact that the percentage of underrepresented faculty members in engineering is very small. The school was, however, recently able to recruit a Hispanic-American woman to the staff.

Karen Beemon, chair of the biology department, has been involved in trying to recruit underrepresented minority graduate students to Homewood programs to help increase this future applicant pool.

Despite the fact that there are many female graduate students in biology, "It's hard to find people," she said. Beemon stated that her department hired one additional woman for this academic year,

bringing the number of women to six out of 25 faculty positions.

University President William Brody wrote in an e-mail that the University's previous lack of female and minority faculty speaks to not having qualified candidates in areas like the sciences and engineering. This, however, "has changed in recent years with a greater influx of women and minorities into the sciences."

Individual departments within the Whiting School of Engineering have slowly been increasing the number of women on its faculty; two years ago, the computer science department and the electrical and computer engineering department did not have any female faculty members. There is currently one female faculty member in the computer science department and two in electrical engineering department.

"The departments are definitely benefiting from the ability to hire more diverse candidates. The people recruited are fabulous additions to the faculty, we wouldn't have chosen them if they weren't," said Nicholas Jones, dean of the Whiting School of Engineering.

The Mosaic Initiative will increase the ability for the University to compete for the most qualified candidates.

"If we don't have a diverse faculty, it will be harder to recruit diverse student body. Furthermore, we would be eliminating a certain significant fraction of potential academic 'stars' from the faculty if we only hired white males," Brody said.

Falk says that Hopkins continues to make progress in diversifying its faculty. "The process isn't as fast as we would like," he said.

Jones stressed that it was necessary to "keep encouraging individuals who are women and underrepresented to continue in engineering and to make themselves available."

The funding for the Mosaic Initiative comes from the offices of both President William Brody as unrestricted gifts to the University and Provost Kristina Johnson and will be distributed University-wide across all of Hopkins's campuses.

"These funds would allow departments to recruit highly qualified women or minority faculty when they are available — a so-called 'target of opportunity,'" Brody said.

Individual departments may request a maximum of \$250,000 to be used over the course of three years to help with the faculty recruitment process. These sums can be put towards salary, research support and laboratory equipment. The money will not cover all the requests, so there will have to be prioritization across the University's schools.

In addition to the money provided by the president and the provost, there will be efforts to approach other donors — individuals and potentially foundations and corporations — to help increase the supplemental funds available to departments. The University's Society of Black Alumni has already committed itself to the effort.



# Do cheaters ever prosper?

Take a random person in today's world and (s)he will most likely believe in monogamous relationships.

No one wants to be "cheated," let alone "cheated on." Why? It makes us feel left alone.

Ask a girl why she would not like her boyfriend seeing someone else and she might say, "Then he does not love me."

I am not saying these are not accurate. I am saying I think they are not accurate enough.

Let us start with the guy. Being cheated on leaves him feeling disrespected. This indignant feeling comes from another conflict — the one between a sense of entitlement (or pride) and accordingly not being entitled. Pride causes a lot of pain.

Nothing is wrong with pride in itself, but it is largely incompatible with everyday life.

You also have to deal with shame, and you place yourself in a worse position.

Pride and shame are not opposites. Shame is pride shown wrong; pride is shame in denial. If a man is proud of, say, his intelligence, and then is shown to be profoundly stupid, he just may hate himself.

But a person who does love himself, who is secure, does not care whether he is smart or pretty, or if his girlfriend kisses other guys. The proud man does not love himself; he loves being better.

The boyfriend, then, is proud of himself, for whatever reason, and feels he deserves loyalty, maybe admiration.

When his girlfriend does not express these feelings, he loses faith in his pride. He loses faith in himself. He is insecure.

The girl now. She wants to be loved, and oh! Do not we all? But is this all she wants? In addition to being loved, she wants to know it. She wants proof. To obtain proof, there must be tests.

Her insecurity comes from her not knowing and being convinced that she must know. That is her conflict. She tests these men, and the ones who pass (or convince her that they pass) are let into her heart.

I now ask, where is the trust in this relationship? I do not see it. To know you are loved? Impossible. To trust you are loved? Necessary. (This is of course, not to say you should trust people with your body willy-nilly.)

The deal here is that neither person is looking into him/herself for proof. The couple looks to each other for what they want to know. The man wants his girlfriend to prove to him that his pride and his self-love exist and are justified. Vice versa.

Neither says, "Hold up. I will choose to love myself unconditionally. I do not need to meet any requirements to love myself, whether this be to be smart or to be loved.

And because I have made this decision, I do not need proof from anyone, even those closest to me." How we wish we could say that.

A cheating relationship is when either party is involved with a tangent, unbeknownst to the other, who would not be okay with it and presumes there is no one on the side.

Guys are less familiar with the feeling of being violated, and while I am no expert, I live in New York City, where there are crowded subways and some male-inclined guys have considered this an invitation.

I stop it quickly, but the feeling of violation, which can be controlled like any other, is naturally not a pleasant one. At all.

Of course it is possible to believe in monogamy without insecurity.

One argument here (not the only one) is that a person believes in a One & Only for everyone and is looking for his/hers.

Let me say that I do not believe in this Double-O.

Also let me say that a truly secure person would allow for the possibility that (s)he is wrong ("Oh yes, I realize that we might not all have a One & Only, but I think we do, so I am acting on that presumption.")

And yes, I accept that I may be wrong (and no, I am not perfectly secure, not yet).

# Viva la resistance! How to best use the bands

I'm sure you've seen resistance bands at the gym — you know, those colorful bands of rubber tubing with handles at the end — but have you ever used them? Resistance bands can be a great alternative form of strength training.

Many physical therapists recommend resistance bands as a way for patients to increase strengthening and stretching. But there are benefits for more than just those individuals who are recovering from an injury. Everyone can benefit from strength training.

Using resistance bands is a great way to strengthen every muscle in the body while adding variety to your routine.

Unlike some machines, resistance bands force you to stabilize your body while performing the exercise. This increases coordination and balance.

The band also provides tension through the entire repetition, which, if done properly, can stimulate the development of more muscle fibers. More tension allows you to achieve more strength.

The best thing about resistance bands is that they are small, light and portable. They are a great piece of equipment to have in your dorm room or house because you can get a full-body workout without having to go to the gym.

A resistance band makes the perfect addition to your vacation suitcase — all you need is a stable device (like a stairwell spindle or sturdy bedpost) to wrap the band around for some of the exercises.

Resistance bands generally cost anywhere from \$6 to \$20.

The main downside to bands is you can't easily measure how much strength you are gaining, unlike weight lifting where you can monitor your progress as you increase weights. However, the thicker the band, the more tension it will provide.

I recommend getting a set of bands that vary in thickness in

order to perform different exercises. Another way to adjust the amount of tension is to grip the band so it is shorter and provides more intensity.

Resistance bands are the perfect quick and effective tool for strengthening the entire body when you have limited space at home or can't make it to the gym. So never feel like you can't get your workout in. Just grab that piece of rubber tubing and get going!

Below is a routine that targets all the major muscle groups of the body using a resistance band. Try to perform 12 to 15 repetitions for each exercise.

## For Chest

**Chest press:** Wrap the band around a stable device. Stand facing the opposite direction far enough away so there is the desired amount of resistance.

With an over-hand grip (knuckles up), press both handles away as if you were doing a push-up.

**Resisted push-up:** Place the band over your shoulders as you are in push-up position.

Hold the band under your palms so the band is relatively tight around your back. Perform a push-up against the resistance.

## For Back and Shoulders

**Low row:** Wrap the band around a stable device. Facing the same direction, grip both handles and step backwards so there is enough tension.

With both hands, pull back along your obliques and pinch your shoulder blades together. Release and repeat.

**Shoulder press:** Take a handle in each hand and place the middle of the band under your feet. Bring your hands up to be in line with your shoulders.

Press up overhead, bringing the handles together at the top of the contraction.

## For Hamstrings

**Seated straight-leg hamstring stretch:** Sit up tall on the floor with both legs straight in front of you, keeping a slight bend in

your knees.

Wrap the resistance band around both feet and grab the middle part of the band on each side of your feet so you have enough tension.

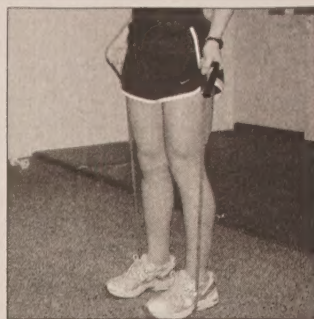
Lean forward with a straight back to feel a stretch in your

hamstrings.

To go deeper into the stretch release from the stretch slightly as you inhale.

Try to bring your chest closer to your knees as you exhale, using the band to gain more flexibility.

## For Legs and Glutes



COURTESY OF DAVID LEONARDIS

**Squat and bicep curl:** Place the bands under both feet, which should be hip-width apart, as you take a handle of the band in each hand and curl your hands around.

Squat down as if you are sitting in a chair, keeping your knees over your ankles.

As you are coming down into a squat keep your elbows at your sides and complete a bicep curl. Release your arms down as you stand up.

## For Abs



COURTESY OF DAVID LEONARDIS

**Resisted sit-up:** You can sit on a stability ball to make this exercise more difficult but sitting on the floor is fine as well.

Wrap the band around a stable device, face the opposite direction and take one handle in each hand with a firm overhand

grip.

Lean back with a straight spine so you can feel the tension in your abs.

Sit up and perform a controlled crunch against the resistance and slowly lower yourself back down.

## For Back and Shoulders



COURTESY OF DAVID LEONARDIS

**Lat pull:** Sit on a stability ball (for the added benefit of core stability) or on a bench/chair.

Grasp the middle of the band in each hand, keeping your hands close enough together to provide you with the appropriate amount of resistance.

Stretch the band apart and to

the sides as you pull the band down to the top of your sternum.

As the motion continues, you should be feeling the contraction of your back and biceps.

*Fitness questions? E-mail them to kellygonzalez9@mac.com.*

# How to best carry Louis Vuitton under your underarm

Throughout the 21st century, there is one name that stands distinguished in the category of luggage and travel retail: Louis Vuitton.

Starting with just a tiny store in Paris in 1854, Vuitton's trunks and suitcases were lightweight and rectangular, and thus a great change from the regular luggage of the day. The popularity of the Louis Vuitton brand has made it one of the most counterfeited in the world.

His company, Louis Vuitton Malletier, or LV, rapidly gained popularity and opened its first store in London soon after taking over in Paris. Shortly after, Vuitton passed away, and his son Georges came into management.

In 1986, at the turn of the century, Vuitton unveiled its now legendary Monogram Canvas. The gold quatrefoils and flowers as well as the LV monogram set upon a brown background now

checker the company's merchandise. From that point forward, the brand has been unstoppable.

Stores opened on the Champs-Élysées, New York, Bombay and Buenos Aires. The brand flew through the markets, raking in massive profits while still creating new lines and designs of luggage. In 1987, LV merged with champagne manufacturer Moët et Chandon and brandy manufacturer Hennessy to create LVMH as a luxury goods group.

A decade later, LV hired fashion designer Marc Jacobs as its arts director, and soon thereafter he produced the brand's first ready-to-wear line of clothing for men and women. LV further broadened its

reach with a pen collection and a city travel guide.

In 2003 Takashi Murakami collaborated with Jacobs to remodel the Monogram Canvas to create the new Monogram Multicolore line of handbags. The Multicolore monogram replaces the original gold color with 33 different colors set on a white or black background.

The look quickly became popular with teens and young women and was further popularized by Jennifer Lopez.

The company saw its 150th worldwide anniversary in 2004 and the re-opening of its Champs-Élysées store (its largest in the world) in 2005.

Today the company has advertised with the likes of Mikhail Gorbachev, Andre Agassi, Gisele Bündchen and even Keith Richards.

The brand's longevity is due to its commitment to quality. Each piece of luggage is hand-made, like it was back when Louis was in charge. Each brass lock and key is unique to the owner and pick-proof, and the frames of the trunk are made from aged poplar.

Such high quality design has made the brand synonymous with Prada, Gucci, Fendi, Dior and Chanel, and it is also just as expensive.

A fashionable lady looking for

a signature Louis handbag can expect to spend anywhere between \$300-\$700 for a clutch or \$1,000+ for a purse or carry-all.

For a classy man, briefcases and bags run about \$700-\$4,000, while wallets will set you back about \$300. The men's spring lineup showed a monochromatic theme of blue, gold, brown and white in experimental styles. The clothing was both luxurious and casual, which for a French powerhouse is uncommon.

Louis Vuitton is perhaps a brand uncommon on college campuses. It is the epitome of luxury living and travel, and this is perhaps why its appearance is so sparse on campus.

As Hopkins students we don't really have the time or the money.

Yet it has been said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. And the world of counterfeit products seems to be addicted to Louis Vuitton at the moment, so why not pick up a fake?

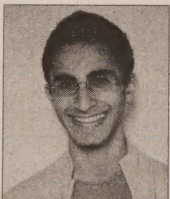
The world of counterfeit products seems to be addicted to Louis Vuitton at the moment, so why not pick up a fake?

—it helps.

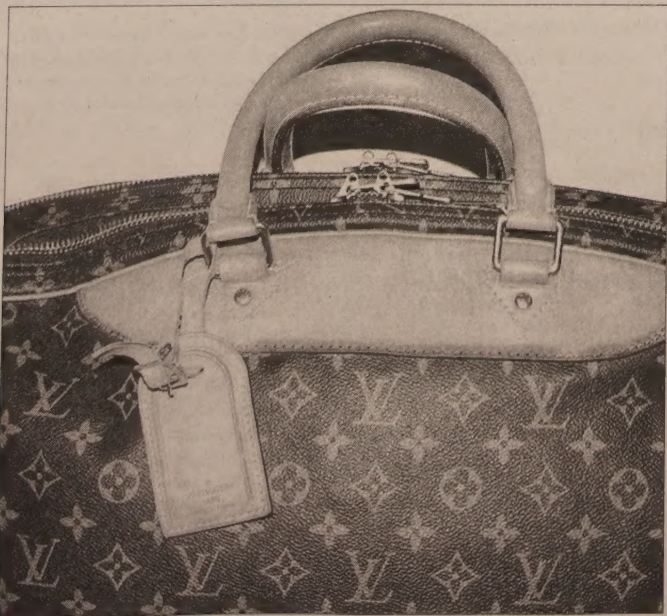
Monsieur Vuitton's attention to detail brought him fame and immortality. So when you wake up tomorrow morning and want to decide between your blue hoodie and your red hoodie, try something different and add a little flare.

A little attention to detail goes a long way.

Siavash Raigani can be reached at siavash.raigani@jhnewsletter.com.



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THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Choosing new leaders

The Student Council (soon to be the Student Government Association) is undoubtedly in a state of transition, and the elections taking place this weekend are perhaps the most important in recent memory. The Council's relationship with the University has been tumultuous, ranging at times from cordial to corrosive, and each of the candidates running to lead the new SGA offers a coherent though strikingly different vision for how that relationship should develop.

The new SGA will also face an array of challenges when it convenes at the end of the year: the Greek housing exemption, sustainability, Sudan divestment, college affordability and the search for a new University president, among others. In past years the Council has stalled on these issues due to a lack of coherent leadership and an inability to overcome administration stonewalling.

For these reasons, the *News-Letter* editorial board has decided to end a long period of abstaining from Student Council elections and endorse candidates for positions on the executive board.

(We chose to exclude the individual classes and focus only on positions elected by the student body as a whole. We also declined to endorse either of the candidates for treasurer, because one of the candidates has previously served as a *News-Letter* editor.)

Our process for making endorsements was thoughtful and deliberative: We interviewed each of the candidates at length in private, off-the-record discussions, soliciting their opinions on procedural matters, such as the new SGA constitution, and broader policy initiatives, such as sustainability and divestment from Sudan.

Each of the candidates we interviewed was thoughtful, intelligent and experienced, and offered a coherent vision for what the SGA should accomplish next year. They would all make competent and effective leaders, and our endorsement process was much more difficult as a result. In the end, we made our decisions based on what we consider the most desirable qualities in SGA leaders: a substantive and ambitious policy agenda, a sophisticated understanding of University bureaucracy and a proven ability to command the respect of peers and mobilize student support. Based on these and other criteria, we recommend the following candidates for positions on the SGA executive board.

**President: Sonny Chandrasekhar**

Choosing which candidate to endorse for president was undoubtedly a wrenching decision, generating lengthy debate and a nearly impenetrable deadlock. Whoever becomes the first president of the new SGA will do so at a formative time, and his or her decisions will likely have broader implications for the direction of the SGA in years to come.

Junior Justine Mink, currently vice president for student life, would inject a healthy dose of enthusiasm into a historically stagnant Council. Her ideas for making the SGA more accessible to the student body — SGA nights at campus hot spots, SGA office hours and even printing T-shirts to make SGA members more visible — are energetic proposals and reflect a genuine interest in making personal contact with otherwise disengaged students.

In less than a year at Hopkins, Freshman Class President Dan Teran has generated some of the most ambitious and innovative policy proposals the Council has ever seen, and he has certainly brought a much-needed sense of raw organizational activism to a previously obstinate Council. Teran has pushed the administration on core social and political issues that resonate with a wide swath of the student body, such as sustainability and political activism. He is behind Hopkins Engaged, one of the most ambitious political initiatives this campus has ever seen, and has said that one of his highest priorities as SGA president would be to engage perhaps the most opaque institutional body on campus — the Board of Trustees. He has a certain rebellious energy that would undoubtedly lead the SGA in an exciting new direction, and with another year of experience would make an exemplary president.

But only Junior Class President Sonny Chandrasekhar has a lengthy record of executive experience along with a sophisticated understanding of how best to navigate the University's labyrinthine bureaucracy, skills that are essential for effecting real change on campus. Chandrasekhar understands that needlessly instigating a fiery confrontation is just as ineffective a strategy as cozying up to the administration and capitulating to its every demand. His work on the sophomore Greek housing exemption has demonstrated his ability to mobilize

support for the Council when it is deeply and bitterly opposed to the administration, while tempering that opposition with tact and effective communication. He seems to understand that an SGA president must strike a delicate balance between penetrating the University's stubborn obstinacy on key issues — sustainability and Greek housing exemption among them — and building relationships with administrators that yield genuine results.

However, we disagree with some of his positions, and hope he will reconsider them if elected. For one, his restructuring plan for the Student Activities Commission (SAC) — adding "councils" below the liaison level for each of the organizational categories — would only inflate an already muddled funding bureaucracy, one that most students find cumbersome to navigate. And his "clear the clutter" campaign — an initiative aimed at clearing old posters from bulletin boards across campus — is commendable, but improving communication with the student body will require more innovative solutions, such as building wide organizational support among student groups.

Nonetheless, Chandrasekhar is an effective communicator, thoughtful tactician and experienced student leader, and for these reasons the *News-Letter* editorial board recommends that students make him their choice for SGA president.

**Vice President: Evan Lazerowitz**

Each of the candidates for SGA vice president would bring equally valuable if vastly different experiences to the position. Sophomore David Rokeach is a thoughtful and charismatic communicator who has slowly accumulated experience with issues of student governance. He is currently a member of the Student Life Committee, a position he acquired out of a desire to communicate more effectively with the Student Council. He has worked on the Inter-Fraternity Council as well, and has a genuine understanding of the impact a vibrant Greek and social life has on the undergraduate community.

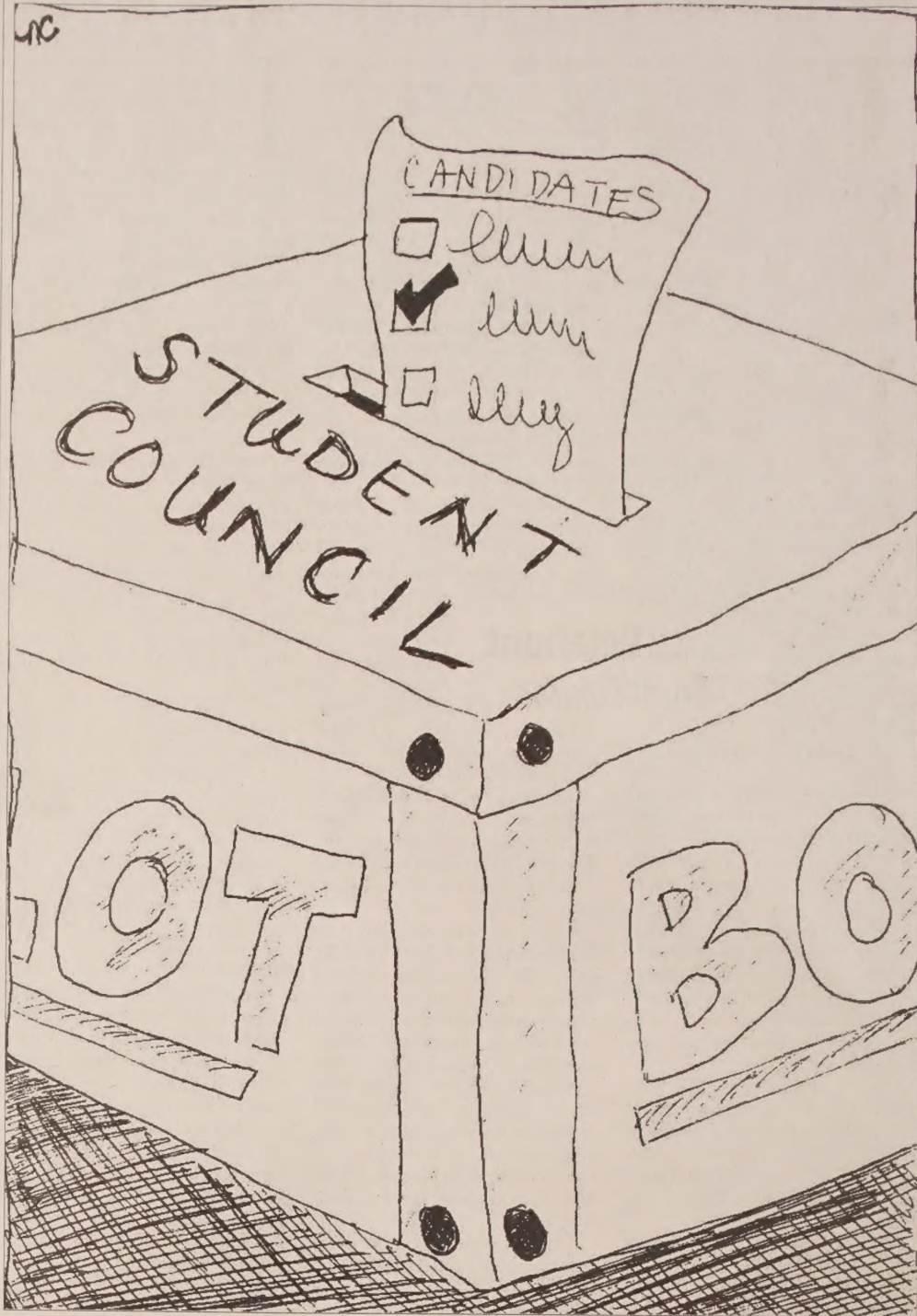
Junior Chris Louie would bring perhaps the most unique voice to the SGA. As president of the Organización Latina Estudiantil (OLÉ), Louie has a sophisticated understanding of organizational leadership. He has proven himself capable of motivating grassroots interest in social causes and community activism, and knows how to effectively delegate responsibility. Perhaps most crucially, he has experience navigating the nebulous SAC funding process — valuable experience considering the current debate on how best to restructure the SAC. We hope whoever comes to lead the SGA next year draws on Louie's proven ability to mobilize student interest in organizational activism.

However, the *News-Letter* editorial board recommends that students select Sophomore Senator for Legislation Evan Lazerowitz as SGA vice president because of his proven ability to spearhead internal reform and his desire to slim down the student government bureaucracy. Lazerowitz wields an intimate knowledge of the new SGA constitution because he was one of its primary authors, and that knowledge would be his most valuable asset as SGA vice president. He has demonstrated a sincere interest in self-evaluation — a rare quality for a member of the Student Council — and desire to make the SGA a more efficient governing body, which would certainly free it up to take on more ambitious goals. Lazerowitz has proven himself an agent of vigorous reform, and the challenge now is to reorient the SGA's focus away from bureaucratic wrangling and toward effecting genuine change in the areas that matter most to students.

**Secretary: Timothy Miller**

Sophomore Timothy Miller, the incumbent secretary, is running for reelection unopposed, but the *News-Letter* endorses his candidacy nonetheless. Miller has conducted what might normally feel like housekeeping work with diligence and enthusiasm, and his ideas for improving communication with the student body seem promising. He is currently at work to improve the Council's Web site, and hopes to establish a regular SGA publication so that students can be better informed about what their government does. Although it has taken a long time — perhaps too long — to make the Council's Web site informative and user-friendly, his initiative in this regard will be invaluable as the SGA attempts to reconnect with a student body that has been thoroughly disengaged.

Natachi Chukumerije



LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins *News-Letter* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to [News.Letter@jhu.edu](mailto:News.Letter@jhu.edu) for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and cannot be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

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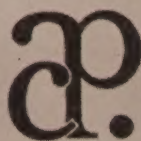
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# OPINIONS

*With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.*

## Understanding another world

By DEVON COHEN

**R**everse culture shock is essentially what I first experienced upon coming back to the United States from my Alternative Spring Break Trip to Honduras with Hopkins Hillel. A journey that began as an opportunity to improve my Spanish ended up providing me with so much more.

Prior to leaving for my Honduran adventure, I had to get approximately five uncommon vaccinations, one of which causes recurring hallucinations. Needless to say, I left Baltimore with quite a few reservations.

When our plane landed in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, we were greeted with news of an eight-hour drive to reach our ultimate destination. Once there, we were pleasantly surprised with our living arrangements hosted by Red COMAL in the region of Gracias, a commercialization network that serves to improve financial situations for peasant farmers throughout Honduras.

We worked on creating a grain structure, which will help to improve the storage facilities for the communities' agricultural production. Lacking these structures, producers have been forced to sell out to competitors without making sustainable profits. The project was funded by the AJWS, and universities across the states are taking part in this excellent initiative.

But we did not just go to help build a structure — we were also privileged to enter the communities and learn about the members' lives. From this, we were

able to learn about their ongoing battles with the economy and their government and the many other dilemmas adding to the plight of the communities.

While there, we were informed of efforts to become more self-sufficient and sustainable. To improve the economy, they must be able to rely on the goods that they produce rather than on the goods they are required to import.

At first, some students found it a novelty to see advertisements for Pepsi with Fergie on billboards. However, the presence of the billboards became less acceptable

as we wandered through the communities and noticed that while the community members weren't buying much of domestic produce, they were stocking up on soda for their children.

It was even more troubling that the problem was obvious to us but was not to those that it actually affected. Informing communities of such problems and helping them overcome ignorance are two of the many initiatives that the organization we were representing is working on.

I have always heard about the struggles in developing nations, but as we realized on the trip, having sympathy and empathy are two very different concepts. I now know the importance of putting yourself in a position where you can ac-



COURTESY OF ANDY CARTON

An alternative spring break trip to Honduras helped one student come to terms with the poverty that plagues the developing world.

tually attempt to understand.

Obviously, I don't believe that anyone on the trip truly knows what it is like to live there, since we spent only one week of our privileged lives there; I do, however, know that we all gained a better understanding of the situation.

As one group member, freshman Brooke Katz mentioned, "My trip to Honduras was an eye-opening and empowering experience. The living conditions in the rural villages were humbling, and the lack of reliable electric power, along with the deficiency of basic national amenities, revealed the vast privileges of American life," she said. "My trip enlightened me to the plight of others, and led me to realize the neces-

sity of an American nation conscientious of public policy."

Now, in addition to the pangs of guilt I get for complaining about the lack of climate control in the Alumni Memorial Residences (AMRs), I have a heightened perspective of a world that I hope will continue to flourish, as this trip definitely solidified my future goals as a public health major, as well as my interest in joining the Peace Corps.

Although I have always had a desire to help others, going to Honduras has truly allowed me to develop a foundation that will help me navigate through the requirements of my undergraduate years before I actually have the ability to shape a changing world.

### Dave Snyder

## The students we've left behind

**T**hink of nine people you went to elementary school with. OK, now remember all the good times you had and the promises for a great future which were hopefully laid out for you throughout your school career. OK, and now think about those other nine people, and think about the fact that, on average in this country, only four of them would have graduated from high school with you. Ridiculous? Hardly.

On April 1, the America's Promise Alliance, a research alliance founded by former Secretary of State Colin Powell, issued a report detailing the current graduation and dropout rates among America's high schools.

The study determined that only about half of American students who attend high school end up receiving diplomas. Because this is an average, it means that far less than 50 percent of students in some of the worst cities and school districts are graduating. Baltimore City public schools, however, ran a close fourth, with a meager graduation rate of 34.6 percent.

These numbers are shocking to me. At an elite academic institution such as Hopkins, the vast majority of students

probably find these numbers to be not just alarming, but downright unforgivable.

I'll admit that coming from the Baltimore County public school system (where the graduation rate is 81.5 percent), I find it simply unfathomable that a school district in such close proximity to mine can provide such a stark contrast.

This only further serves to reinforce the idea that there is an ever-widening financial and learning gap. Something needs to be done about this. But how do we even begin to remedy this problem?

Well, programs such as Teach for America are definitely a good first step in the positive direction. By placing teachers in low-income, underachieving schools, Teach for America aims to promote interest in the teaching population because, frankly, most teachers do not want to teach in schools that are already underperforming.

This idea is also addressed in a recent article by the *Baltimore Sun*, which discusses the fact that teachers at 11 public schools in Baltimore City may have to reapply for their jobs at the end of the year due to provisions mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

Because their schools are underperforming, NCLB attributes it to a lack of interest, skill or motivation on the parts of the teachers, and thus forces them to

have to compete for their jobs if they wish to continue teaching at the same school.

While this may seem like a good idea, it can lead to even more problems, as teachers may be upset by the idea of having to reapply for jobs that they already hold. For the first year or so, this can lead to unrest among the faculty.

A second answer to the question of what can be done is to provide more funding for education. The federal government needs to stop decreasing funding for education in order to increase funding for national defense.

First and foremost, these funds should be used to increase teachers' salaries, because, let's face it, teachers have a very difficult job and are not well-compensated for it. This leads to a decrease in interest in teaching, which must be reversed if our students are to succeed.

The possibility for salary increases must be based not only on teacher performance (based on intermittent reviews) but also upon the performance of students (based on performance on standardized tests).

This funding also needs to go towards things such as general maintenance of schools, textbooks and other classroom supplies and the availability of technology such as computers and other classroom audio-visual materials to create

safe environments that are conducive to learning.

We also must seek to provide more opportunities for students to receive tutoring and other help with their schoolwork.

Many students have difficulty grasping concepts during class time, when the teachers must teach in overcrowded situations — another contributing factor to the high dropout rate — and are not available to meet the individual needs of each student.

Finally, though it may seem a bit of a stretch, we must encourage participation in extracurricular activities as well as provide various opportunities and choices for such participation. Extracurricular activities have been proven to teach students greater time management skills. They also serve as stress-relievers and keep kids out of trouble after school.

By participating in extracurriculars, students have a reason to go to school; we have thus achieved the first step in increasing graduation rates by making sure students attend school in the first place.

We must all be aware of the education system in this country. As people who have clearly benefited from it and are in a position to do something about it, we must seek to help those who are less fortunate than us to have the same opportunities in life.

## Decoding a wardrobe's colors

By PHILIP CASTROVINCI

**I** have seen a few interesting things while at Hopkins. Some have perplexed me, others piqued my curiosity, but there is one thing I have yet to figure out.

I have a friend whose wardrobe consists of only three colors: blue, white and black. I am quite certain there is not one other color that touches his body. Of course, black and white go with everything and blue happens to be quite a popular color, but really, no other colors?

You can tell a bunch about the way someone dresses, and I'm not talking about brands, but style. Not style as in fashion, but demeanor — clothes reflect your personality in a shallow but blatant way.

At the age of 18 to 22, clothing is something we sort of take for granted. We can accept the idea that someone will walk into a lecture in their pajamas or a suit. The only times we are conscious of dress is when we are "going out" or getting dressed up for an interview or a nice dinner. The rest of the time, what's the deal?

Around this time I like to go to the

Carolina Cup, a horse race in Camden, S.C., which I attended a few weeks back. I want to tell you that it is a completely different world than Hopkins.

As soon as you get out of the car, the bombardment of girls in sundresses and large hats is overwhelming. Guys wear pastels, ties and hats from either a country or yacht club.

There tends to be a bit more than blue, black and white in their attire. However, this scene seems to be the other extreme.

I went to the race last year, and a friend I was with didn't understand why I thought it would be a better idea to wear khaki shorts rather than jean shorts. At the race he was glad that he did.

I like clothing. But being a guy, we have a tendency to wear a very simple uniform: pants, t-shirt or collared shirt, sneakers or sandals. Girls are a whole other story — one with no beginning and no end.

Being an extreme moderate, I don't tend to trends and sort of have the same kind of clothes for a while. I know when I'm dressed like a thug or an Easter egg. However, I am curious about other people's stance on the clothes they wear, or

at least those who wear clothes.

My friend, who only has three colors in his wardrobe, also believes that any emphasis to bolster image based on clothing is senseless. He doesn't dress like a slob by any means, but at the same time seems to pay no attention his wardrobe at all.

There is the old adage, dress for the job you want, not the job you have. I agree in many regards that my thoughts are no more legitimate because I'm wearing a tie; however, politicians, lawyers, doctors and business people wear suits for a reason.

If your plans in life include these types of occupations, be prepared to drop some bills on clothing from designers that, when you say their names out loud, make you feel like a jerk.

At this age, yes, if a student wore a suit to class everyday, he would be ostracized in some fashion. But is this an American ideal?

European leaders are known to be better dressed than America's heads of state. Everybody's favorite New Yorker, Michael Bloomberg, is a billionaire businessman with probably a closet to match. Since he took office as mayor of New York, he has subsequently dressed

down.

Perhaps in the United States, my buddy is right in saying the value of clothing only goes so far. Who knows? At school, some people are genuinely impressed when you have a collared shirt on.

The more I consider the importance of clothing, the more I think that perhaps my buddy is right. A person is the same naked or in a Brioni tuxedo.

I heard a quote from a book on etiquette and being a gentleman: "One thing should be clear. Clothes do not make a man a gentleman, and by the same token, a real gentleman is always a gentleman, even without his clothes."

At the moment, I don't even want to explore the idea of being a gentleman, but I certainly do believe in the importance of incorporating better clothes into your wardrobe to better express a persona. In the meantime, I will wear bright colors to horse races, dark ones to funerals, a suit to job interviews and a T-shirt to lacrosse games.

Philip Castrovinci is a senior public health major from Sarasota, Fla.

## A surge going nowhere is not the solution

By SHAWN MCDONALD

**T**uesday begins General David Petraeus's testimony in front of Congress. I trust Petraeus's judgment as much as I would trust Gen. George McClellan's judgment in 1862. The recent battle in Basra proves that the surge was a failure. Furthermore, it reveals that the United States is a destabilizing force in Iraq.

We must remember that one of the expressed purposes of the surge was to create space for political reconciliation. This is what the proponents of the surge said at the onset, and they must be held accountable for those words. They cannot continually move the goalposts.

In January, Bush himself said, "Yet over time, we can expect to see Iraqi troops chasing down murderers, fewer brazen acts of terror and growing trust and cooperation from Baghdad's residents. When this happens, daily life will improve, Iraqis will gain confidence in their leaders and the government will have the breathing space it needs to make progress in other critical areas. Most of Iraq's Sunni and Shia want to live together in peace, and reducing the violence in Baghdad will help make reconciliation possible."

Recently, Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki ordered an attack on Basra, where the Mahdi militia led by Muqtada al-Sadr had a strong presence. Note that al-Sadr had ordered a cease-fire last year. It was not al-Sadr who began this fight but Maliki.

We must wonder why the attacks were timed for now. Strange coincidences pop up. Maliki had recently been pressured by the United States to hold provincial elections. (After all, the United States does need its photo-ops to show "progress.") These elections had been vetoed before, but plans to hold them in October have been begrudgingly accepted by Iraq's federal government. The ruling political party was afraid that they would lose in the Shia dominated south, while al-Sadr's party was poised to win in areas such as Basra.

The attack in Basra was a blatant exercise in partisan violence. The "national government" of Iraq is a thinly veiled factional stronghold with its own ties to militias. Basra was an intra-Shiite battle for power.

Maliki got his butt kicked in Basra and was forced to crawl to al-Sadr and sue for peace. Various estimates of the rate of defection of the national government's Iraqi army range between 10 percent and 30 percent. The only thing preventing a total defeat was the presence of U.S. troops. Yes, U.S. troops took an active role in Maliki's attack. We always hear that the United States is supposed to prevent civil war in Iraq. Instead, we are taking sides and fighting in their civil conflicts.

Isn't this the opposite of what the surge was supposed to accomplish? We were supposed to have space for political reconciliation. Open warfare between factions is the opposite of political reconciliation. The American presence is supposed to prevent civil war, yet here we are, our military propping up one side in a civil conflict. The surge has taken us further away from political reconciliation.

By propping up Maliki, we preserve factional division in Iraq. Our presence also makes increased violence more likely. As we continue with this boondoggle, we pump billions of dollars in Iraq. We are funding the weapons for Maliki's faction. Also, the surge has introduced a practice of bribing Sunnis not to kill us or other Iraqis. We are essentially pouring money into Sunni militias. We increase the likelihood of Sunni-Shiite violence in addition to the Shiite-Shiite violence we already have taken a part in.

Moreover, billions of dollars have simply disappeared. Money is funneled to the shadiest characters in Iraq, unbeknownst to us. We are not only funding militias but funding criminals.

We must recognize that the U.S. presence in Iraq is counterproductive. The longer we stay, the more money we provide for future violence. We are propping up an unpopular faction in Iraq and allowing that faction to use our troops for its violent efforts. Instead of creating political reconciliation, we are fostering civil violence.

Petraeus is smart enough not to spout obvious propaganda. He will call the gains tenuous and reversible. He will ask for more patience, but we should give him none. There were not even tenuous gains. The surge has been a complete strategic failure. It is time to leave Iraq.

Shawn MacDonald is a junior philosophy major from Union City, Calif.



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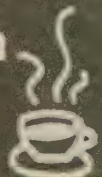
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8pm

10pm  **Coffee  
Grounds**



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Monday - 4/14	8pm Gossip Girls • 9pm One Tree Hill
Tuesday - 4/15	8pm American Idol • 9pm Hell's Kitchen
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# THE B SECTION

The Johns Hopkins  
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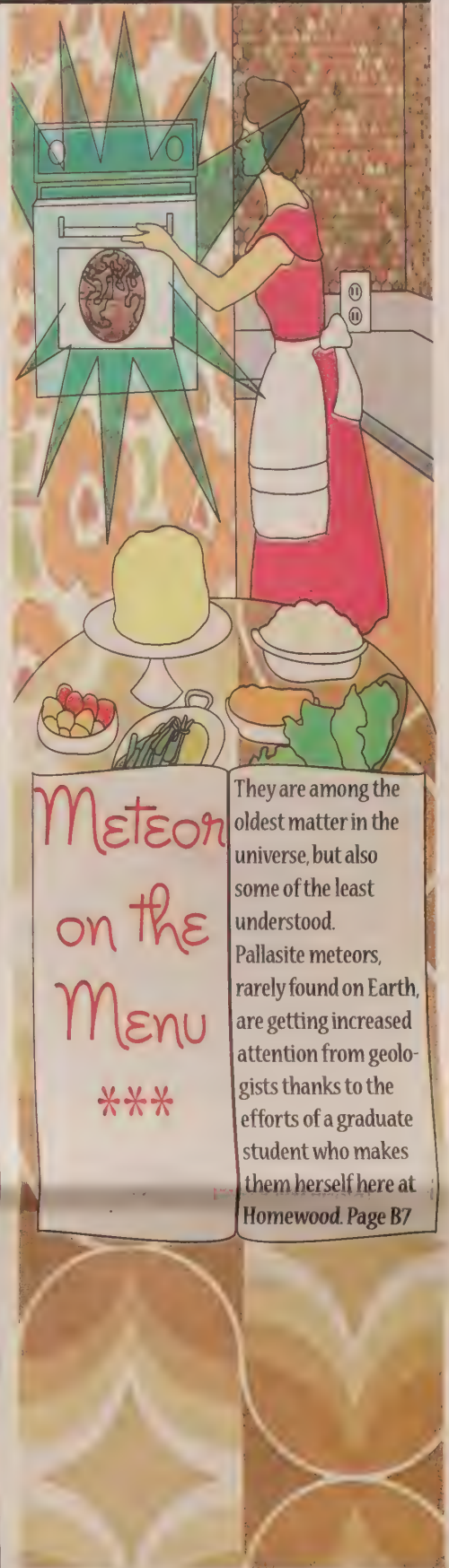
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APRIL 10, 2008



## EVERYTHING WILL BE WONDERFUL SOME DAY

.....  
THE STORY OF EVERCLEAR, A BAND WITH A  
DECADE OF SUCCESS, BACK ON THE ROAD AND  
OUT OF THE ARCHIVES



### Meteor on the Menu \*\*\*

They are among the oldest matter in the universe, but also some of the least understood. Pallasite meteors, rarely found on Earth, are getting increased attention from geologists thanks to the efforts of a graduate student who makes them herself here at Homewood. Page B7

### INSIDE B SECTION



#### ARTS

• **Pippin**, the 27th-longest running Broadway show, comes to Hopkins as the musical for the spring, **B3**

#### YOUR N-L

• Not sure what to do with all that **illegal stuff** you have lying around your dorm? No problem; we've got your back, **B8**.

#### SPORTS

• The men's and women's track teams had successful **runs** at Muhlenberg, **B10**.



# CALENDAR APRIL 10 - APRIL 16

APR.  
10

## Fans 'Ga Ga' for Spoon, set for Sonar

This weekend Spoon, of Austin, Texas, plays at Sonar before a crowd that is sure to receive them well. This seems apt after their latest release *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* was not only their biggest seller to date, but also an album that debuted on the Billboard 200 at No. 10.

*Rolling Stone* fittingly wrote that "*Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* might be Spoon's commercial breakthrough, doing for them what *Good News* did for Modest Mouse." This might have signaled for some a move into the mainstream, but for Spoon their more popular appeal by no means mirrors a lesser quality of music.

*Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* broadens Spoon's earnest rock with even more experimentation than past efforts. In a music industry that demands reinvention, Spoon added everything from Clash-like guitars to Motown horns. Often likened to Wilco, it is easy to see how they mirror Jeff Tweedy's ability to constantly implement new sounds. However, despite their inventiveness, Spoon has an undeniably retro sound to them, their vocals sparse and tinny, their instrumentation mic-ed.

Their influences are perceptible, and they are immediately reminiscent of the Pixies early on in their career; they have since grown to sound like a mixture of indie rock greats. Their debut album *Telephono* was released on Matador Records — home to such legends as Pavement, Yo La Tengo and Belle & Sebastian.

Currently signed with independent label Merge Records, Spoon has seen an interesting peppering into mainstream pop culture. Television commercials



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.AUSTINSOUND.NET

Spoon comes to Sonar with their excellently executed songs and catchy tunes that are sure to please the average indie lover.

have ruined many great songs over the years, and Spoon lay victim to the same plight as their hit single "I Turn My Camera On" appeared on several commercials over the past few years, including, most notably, a Dockers ad.

Though this has made the majority of the population think of pants when they hear the pulsating bass line of their most well known song, it does not change for those who have followed Spoon since "Girls Can Tell."

In the ever-nagging question of whether a band "sells out" when they start to hit it big, it seems the answer for Spoon is a definitive no. Often elitist hipsters try to find a unifying rule to characterize

music, but Spoon is an example of why such decisions must be made on a band-to-band basis.

Their music transcends the boundaries of strict definition and remains as much their own as it ever has. So what if a few pearl-wearing sorority girls will be singing along to the two Spoon songs they know on Friday night; the rest of their set will feature unfettered passion in the Sonic Youth sense. Either way, it is undeniable that Spoon delivers.

Also playing with Spoon will be New York City's the Walkmen. An enticing attraction in themselves, the former members of Johnathan Fire Eater and the Recoys provide a mix-

ture of the raw garage sound of their past bands and more subtle piano and instrumentation. Their 2002 debut *Every- one who Pretended to Like Me Is Gone* was an instant favorite in crowds that listen to such music, with their most recent album landing in 2006. Think Joy Division with the soft side of the Cure mixed with the Velvet Underground.

The show is at Sonar on Friday night at 8 p.m. Tickets are sold out, but you could always try to scalp one on the streets, and it would be worth it even at double the original price.

— Ishan Dasgupta

## MOVIE OPENINGS

### Smart People

Landmark Harbor East Cinema

Friday, April 10

12:10 p.m. | 2:20 p.m. | 4:45 p.m. | 7:00 p.m. | 9:30 p.m.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.SMARTPEOPLE-THEMOVIE.COM  
Into the life of a widowed professor comes a new love and an unexpected visit from his adopted brother. The film stars Dennis Quaid, Ellen Page and Sarah Jessica Parker.

dian indie rock band that blends punk-infused folk rock with literate and introspective lyrics. For tickets, either go to <http://www.ticketmaster.com> and search "Recher Theatre" under venues, or visit the box office located next to the Recher Theatre.

straight from the mouth of a very melancholic God, Owen Ashworth sings songs over simple beats of his keyboard and sings it well. Entrance is \$8 to the Talking Head Club, located at 203 E. Davis St.

## Campus events

### Thursday, April 10

#### 9 a.m. Habitat for Humanity Krispy Kreme Sale!

Habitat is selling Krispy Kremes in the Breezeway this Thursday and Friday, April 10 and 11, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Donuts will be \$0.50 a piece or \$5 a box. If you are interested in reserving a box please e-mail [jchisho3@jhu.edu](mailto:jchisho3@jhu.edu).

#### 11:30 a.m. Try your luck in the Money Machine; \$500 in Cash & Prizes

Be part of Student Employment Appreciation Week and grab for cash, gift certificates and much more! Over \$500 in cash & prizes is up for grabs from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on the beach.

#### 8 p.m. The Blood of Yingzhou District Film Screening

Come watch a short (40min) documentary film, *The Blood of Yingzhou District* — an Oscar-award winning production made in cooperation with China's Ministry of Health and UNICEF in

Remsen 101. This film won over 11 awards at film festivals in documentary film and stars Chinese folk singer Peng Liyuan, and focuses on a year in the life of children in remote villages of Anhui province, China, who have lost their parents to AIDS. Although there is no price for admission, donations are encouraged for the cause after the screening.

### Friday, April 11

9:30 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.; 1:30 p.m.

– 4 p.m. Symposium on Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio Homewood Museum presents its eighth annual 'Baltimore's Great Architects Symposium, "Andrea Palladio from Rome to Baltimore," at the Graham Auditorium in the Walters Museum (at 10 W. Centre St.). For complete program and registration information, visit <http://www.museums.jhu.edu/symposium>.

8 p.m. Piano sensation Gleb Ivanov plays the Evergreen Evergreen Museum & Library's Music at Evergreen concert series concludes its '07-'08 season

with the Baltimore debut of young Russian pianist Gleb Ivanov. Information is available at <http://www.museums.jhu.edu>

### Sunday, April 13

#### 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fundraiser for Relay for Life

Come to the Charles Commons MPR to help raise money for breast cancer by donating small sums while enjoying the Multicultural Breakfast.

#### 10 a.m. Blue Jay 5K

On Sunday, April 13 at 10 a.m. there will be the 6th Annual JHU Blue Jay 5K Road Race and Half Mile Fun Run for Juvenile Diabetes located on the JHU Homewood Campus. Race day registration starts at 8 a.m. on Sunday in the Rec Center. Participants will have the chance to win prizes that the overall winners, as well as male/female winners in various age categories will all have a chance to win. All race participants will get a T-shirt and other cool prizes. The race Web site is <http://www.hopkinstrack.com/bluejay5k>.

### Monday, April 14

#### 3 p.m. Science, God, and Journalism

George Johnson is a science writer for the *New York Times* and author of among others, "Fire in the Mind: Science, Faith and the Search for Order" and "In the Palaces of Memory: How We Build the Worlds Inside Our Heads." He'll discuss a journalist/author's take on the vexed subject of science and religion. The discussion, located in Gilman 323, is part of the Johns Hopkins Evolution, Cognition & Culture Project and is co-sponsored by the Writing Seminars.

### Local events

#### Thursday, April 10

#### 7 p.m. The Weakerthans

Entrance to the Recher Theatre (512 York Road) is \$15 for a full bar and performance by the Weakerthans, a four-piece Cana-

### Sunday, April 13

#### 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Brunch with a Beat.

How deep is your bottomless mimosa? Make sure it's deep enough that you can chill and catch some live jazz at the the Red House Tavern in Canton, located at 2239 Essex St.

#### 2 p.m. "The Universe According to the Hubble Space Telescope"

Mario Livio, senior astrophysicist at the Space Telescope Science Institute, presents a talk at the Walters Art Museum (600 N. Charles St.) in conjunction with Mapping the Cosmos: Images from the Hubble Space Telescope. Entrance is \$10.

#### 7 p.m. Toots and the Maytals

Reggae Rasta classic, Toots and the Maytals, come to Rams Head Live! for a jammin' time with a unique combination of gospel, ska, soul, reggae and rock. Visit <http://www.ramshheadlive.com> for more information.

### Monday, April 14

#### Spa Week (also on 4/15, 4/16, 4/17, 4/18, 4/19 and 4/20)

Spas in Maryland — 18 participating — will be offering special packages including organic, herbal and detoxifying treatments in agreement with the Green Movement. The event runs from April 14-20. During this time, you can get two to three full-service spa treatments for \$50. Register at <http://www.spaweek.org/> for the listings of participating locations.

### Tuesday, April 15

#### 7 p.m. Five Bands for Five Bucks.

Practically giving away music, the 8x10 (located at 10 E. Cross St.) makes Tuesdays worthwhile.

#### 8 p.m. Baltimore Speaker Series: The Capitol Steps

For one night, this political comedy troupe, which began 25 years ago as a bunch of Senate staffers who satirized their employers and their surroundings, comes to the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall (Cathedral and Preston streets in Baltimore) to help you laugh a little at the stuff that sort of scares you. Much of the format is musical parody. For more information, visit the Baltimore Speaker Series Web site at <http://www.baltimore-speakerseries.org>.

### Saturday, April 12

#### 9 a.m. – 10 p.m. Earth Day at Whole Foods

Customers are encouraged to bring reusable bags to enter the "Reusable Runaway" contest. The winner receives a \$100 Whole Foods gift card.

#### 7 p.m. Nada Surf

This indie-pop band has a strong and loyal following. Over the course of several albums on stalwart indie Barsuk Records, the melodic-rockers have honed a specialization in the kind of warm, sufficiently catchy songs that make for a lovely concert evening. Head to D.C.'s 9:30 Club (815 V St. N.W. — the intersection of 9th, V and Vermont Sts.), and visit <http://www.930.com> for ticketing information.

#### 10 p.m. Casiotone for the Painfully Alone, Clue to Kalo, These United States, the Cotton Jones Basket Ride

With a deep voice that makes his stories of 20-something trials sound like they're coming

## Exposure

By Conor Kevit





# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Barnstormers bring some spice to Schwartz's *Pippin*

By NATALIE BERKMAN  
News-Letter Staff Writer

The Barnstormers "have magic to do, just for you," and they're bringing it in the form of *Pippin*, a hit musical from the '70s. There are three more performances, and they promise "intrigue — plots to bring disaster; humor — handled by a master; romance — sex presented pastorally; illusion — fantasy to study; battles — barbarous and bloody" and much more.

*Pippin* presents the story of the son of Charlemagne, the title character, who is searching for the meaning of life: his "corner of the sky." In a sort of Candide-like journey, he tries nearly everything a person can do in a lifetime in the pursuit of what he wants. Stephen Schwartz's music is pleasant and his lyrics clever. Audiences might recognize Schwartz's sound from the hit show, *Wicked*, another of his musicals.

The presentation of the plot is sort of a play within a play as a group of actors help Pippin to find the meaning of his life. These actors are interesting and often satirical, playing off of the audience, the pit orchestra, the tech crew and anyone else they can find. Many aspects of the story are unexpected, and thus often humorous.

Pippin was indeed the son of Charlemagne, but that doesn't mean this story has any semblance of truth. However going to see a musical is a willing suspension of disbelief, so it doesn't ultimately matter if the story is accurate or not. One attends a musical specifically for the unique telling of its story.

This production of *Pippin* was cleverly staged for the Mattin Center's tiny Swirnow Theater. The only scenery was a black wall, which divided to



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
An enthusiastic cast brought *Pippin*, a musical about Charlemagne's son, out of retirement in a well-intentioned production.

become anything needed: Charlemagne's castle, a chapel, a farm and much more. The props were a few fake swords and arrows, a bed, some green carpet for grass and maybe a few other things, but each prop truly helped to further something in the show. Everything was absolutely necessary, making the performance fly by.

The performers all did a spectacular job performing a real Broadway musical successfully. The pit orchestra was concealed but did an incredible job keeping up with the fast pace of the performance, often responding to the leading player, sophomore Gerrad Taylor.

Taylor opened the performance and kept it going with his enthusiasm, powerful vocals and tons of energy.

Pippin was played by freshman Rob Keleher, whose youthful naïveté was very believable.

For "only" being a freshman, he held his own among the rest of the cast. Keleher was on stage for practically the entire show and had many difficult songs and scenes.

Charlemagne (senior Dave Haldane) was stupid but funny, and his wife, Fastrada (sophomore Cara Selick), was conniving and witty.

Berthe (sophomore Evelyn Clark) got the audience to sing along with her, and Catherine (senior Jackie Jennings) had a lovely voice.

Overall, the cast was intriguing and enthusiastic and truly delivered the "magic" they promised.

Sadly, the music in *Pippin* leaves something to be desired. If asked to sing a melody from the show immediately after the performance, most people would only be able to sing the opening number at best. The melodies were all simple and cute, but not very catchy.

Overall the show itself is relatively mediocre and forgettable. However, the Barnstormers' rendition is enjoyable and certainly worth seeing. It's a fun night, but you probably won't remember much of it by the next morning.

The original Broadway production of *Pippin* was directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse, who, as many know, was a phe-

nomenal director and a tough act to compete with. The crew of this production did a great job living up to Fosse's example.

The production never dulled and kept moving; the choreography was fun, and the audience appeared to enjoy the performance.

The Barnstormers managed to make a vivacious show out of a bare stage and portrayed Pippin's post-college journey in a way that makes it applicable to everyone in the audience.

The production was smooth with few glitches. The only obvious error was once at the beginning when the light didn't follow Pippin across the stage, but that can easily be overlooked considering how exact the other cues were.

Often, at the snap of a finger, lights and music responded, propelling the plot and forcing the audience to smile.

*Pippin* isn't a brilliant musical, but this is a fun production. Walk over, find a seat and enjoy the performance. You'll learn a little about life, and notice how it can go by in just "No Time at All."

The Barnstormers' production of *Pippin* will continue in the Swirnow Theater on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, April 13 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for the public and \$5 with student ID.

## Israel-Palestine photography reveals reality of conflict

By ANNE FABER  
News-Letter Staff Writer

A uniquely Palestinian perspective on the Middle-East conflict in Israel was portrayed through first-hand accounts and artwork by an Israeli photographer and a Palestinian filmmaker last Thursday night in the Mattin Center.

Neil Hertz, a professor of literature in the English department at Hopkins for 25 years, coordinated the event in conjunction with the Faculty for Israeli Palestinian Peace (FFIPP), hoping to raise awareness about the situation. As he said, "most Americans don't really get a very good look at what's going on, particularly in the West Bank ... [They] learn about what's going on between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East from mostly sources sympathetic to the policies of the state of Israel."

While waiting for the artists to arrive, Hertz gave his perspective on the conflict during a trip he took with the FFIPP. He described an abandoned village outside of Nazareth, overgrown into a mature forest, with an unkempt and nearly unrecogniz-

able cemetery. The reason the cemetery was in shambles, he explained, was because the Palestinian settlers had been moved inside the city and were no longer allowed to leave.

His response to this situation was that "there are reasons for many of Israeli state policies. There are reasons why you would not want suicide bombers to get into your community ... But what earthly reason could you have for keeping people from tending a cemetery?"

A similar outcry was felt in the artwork featured by Esti Tsai, an Israeli woman who has been a peace activist for many years and is an active member in MACHSOM Watch, an organization of Israeli Defense Forces at checkpoints for Palestinians in the West Bank.

Tsai's photographs displayed scenes of violence and terror as Palestinians attempted to cross various checkpoints in Israel.

One photograph entitled "Checking an ID and a pointed gun" featured a mother and son holding each other as they waited at

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LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Rima Essa's film on Palestinian garbage workers evoked a sense of hopelessness.

## Modern Dance shines under Byers's direction

By ASHLEY AAROE  
For The News-Letter

The term "modern dance" can be rather enigmatic. Dance, as with most art forms, already tends to reflect modern themes and ideas. The crucial difference remains in modern dancers' rejection of convention and the strict, almost regimental drilling of classical ballet. Instead, they embrace free expression in dance where any type of movement is accepted, if not encouraged. Since 1981, Hopkins has housed a modern dance company under the supervision of artistic director, Marilyn Byers.

The JHU Modern Dance Company brought this appreciation for unrestrained dance to the Homewood campus on Saturday night with their spring concert.

Choreographed by Byers, most of the pieces emphasized cleanliness over individual bravado. This allowed the dancers to shine as a group, rather than judged by their personal prowess. Many dance performances fall into the trap of allowing some dancers to show off, leaving other dancers behind and creating a performance that is less about the feeling behind the work as much as the individual capabilities of a select few dancers.

The performance was very diverse, and while it was stylistically very consistent, the texture of each piece was certainly distinctive. "Popcorn" proved a lively favorite that showed the precise timing and impeccable formation changes to full advantage.

The moods of "Shepherdess" and "Breaking the Silence" were considerably toned down, and offered a more introspective view into dance. However, since the movements were generally more fluid and imprecise, each dancer brought more of their own stylistic tendencies to the work. This, while very beautiful and interesting to observe, slightly impaired the overall unity of the group. There is therefore a duality in modern dance performance that needs to be addressed.

The dance "Over the Top," achieved a perfect balance of these two elements, with a refined approach that included a number of striking tableaux.

The final piece, "Nostalgia," was also very striking, because it was predominantly classically influenced. Many movements stemmed from balletic influence, which can be very comfortable for most dancers and that

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LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Modern dance allows freer forms of movement as compared to the more rigid ballet.

## JHUT presents universal issues in Victorian romp *La Ronde*

By VANESSA VERDINE  
News-Letter Staff Writer

On the opening night of the JHUT production of Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, director John Astin introduced the play as one famous for the riot it had caused due to its scandalousness. The play may observe sex in an unabashed, comical manner, and shock the petticoats off of turn-of-the-century Victorian audiences, but as Astin said, "It is in many ways a highly nuanced play." The play, with a skilled set of actors, tackled the task of translating those nuances and succeeded, producing a comical but far from frivolous performance.

The play's structure is based on the dance ronde or reigen (in the play's original German), a dance performed in a chain. The cast of 10 performs 10 scenes, each featuring two actors and each portraying a different sexual scenario. Each actor acts in two adjacent scenes, joined by a different character each time. The play progresses thus, beginning with the Whore and the Soldier, then the Soldier and the Parlor Maid, and so on, until the play makes full circle with a scene between the Count and the Whore. The tagline of the play is therefore quite fitting: "A Merry-Go-Round of Love."

The play is interesting in its handling of both modern and historical issues. Sex is and has always been a prickly issue, one inseparable from social factors such as gender and social status. Both are dealt with through humorous interactions in the cast, such that you may not realize a pertinent point has been made until you think about it long afterwards.

There are a number of historical and modern issues in the play,

unsurprising as the turn of the century was an intensely complicated time, one in which issues of gender and socioeconomics began percolating. The whole play is based around couples cheating on one another, and the one marriage in the play is no less exempt from promiscuity than the whore's relations.

That marriage, featured through the Young Husband (senior Kyle Dugan) and the Young Wife (senior Justine Wiesinger) from scenes four to six presents a rather absurd and out-of-place theme of jealousy.

The Wife's inquiry about her husband's past might be the only time jealousy is relevant — what does it matter, really, in the side relationships, which are infidelities themselves? Perhaps the play is pointing out the inevitability of such emotions as jealousy even in ridiculous situations. And that is certainly one issue that is pertinent to our time.

Another resonant issue is that of female sexuality, both the power and the stigma of it. In the Parlor Maid/Young Gentleman scene senior Laura Peralta wonderfully depicts a coquette wielding her sexual power over freshman Michael Alfieri's Gentleman, who himself is perfectly awkward and bumbling in his discomfort.

A good number of the female players are active in their sexual pursuits: the Actress (senior Liz Eldridge), and the Whore (junior Christen Cromwell), are examples. Scene six, between the Husband and the Little Miss (senior Yasmene Mumby), introduces the issue of the double standard between male and female sexuality. The Husband also expresses a strange amount of disgust for wives who cheat, even though he does the same thing.

But this play also gives insight into another time. The conflict of class dynamics is introduced in the scene between the Parlor Maid and the Young Gentleman and continues to the end of the play. All the pairings and their hinging between social statuses made a statement at the time of the play's publication on the fact that all social statuses misbehave, and it may be something we consider today as well in a time in which political figures' sex lives make the front page of the news.

All the subtleties and complexities of this both humorous

and political statement of a play were made possible though excellent acting. Near all the characters were completely believable, for example junior Scott Morse's stuffy Count and senior Joe Micali's boisterous, licentious Soldier.

Occasionally a part seemed under- or over-acted: Peralta's Maid's words and actions were swallowed somewhat by the Soldier's in their scene together, and there seemed to be a slight disconnect between the two sides of Alfieri's Gentleman in his scenes. This latter issue was slight and may have well been an artistic

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LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Kyle Dugan and Yasmene Mumby bring life to the overtly sexual *La Ronde*.



## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## Everclear still going strong, says frontman Alexakis

By JOHN KERNAN  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

When my friends learned I had landed an interview with Everclear, a common response was, "Oh man, my 12-year-old self is so excited for you." It's true: It seems like Everclear hasn't been up to much since 1998 or so. So, when I sat down with frontman Art Alexakis, I asked him where he's been all these years.

Furns out, he's been doing plenty. Since the original band's breakup in 2003 and a departure from Capitol Records, Alexakis continued on with the name. He put out the album *Welcome to the Drama Club* in 2006. The album yielded two singles, "Glorious" and "Hater," which achieved moderate success.

It didn't do as well "because it was on a label that didn't work it," Alexakis said. "I wonder what we could have done. I really put my heart and soul into that record."

Despite his disappointment, the album still sold almost 100,000 copies. Now, with Strategic managing and producing for the band, Alexakis sees a much better fit, like "people give a damn." He sees a promising future with Strategic for his newest album, *The Vegas Years*.

*The Vegas Years* is essentially a covers album. It has some classics, like "Brown-Eyed Girl" and "Jenny (867-5309)," and some oddities, like the *Speed Racer* theme.

Alexakis explained the album's title as it relates to Vegas.

"Everywhere you go [in Vegas] somebody is playing covers. Whether it's a guy, a band, three chicks covering Black Sabbath a capella. I mean, it's f---ing weird. It's a pretty good psychology. The people that own those places want you to come there for one reason: to throw money in the hole ... They want you sloppy. You get your guard down when you're singing 'Sweet Home Alabama.' You're comfortable. You don't want people to think."

So, it's kind of a joke, but

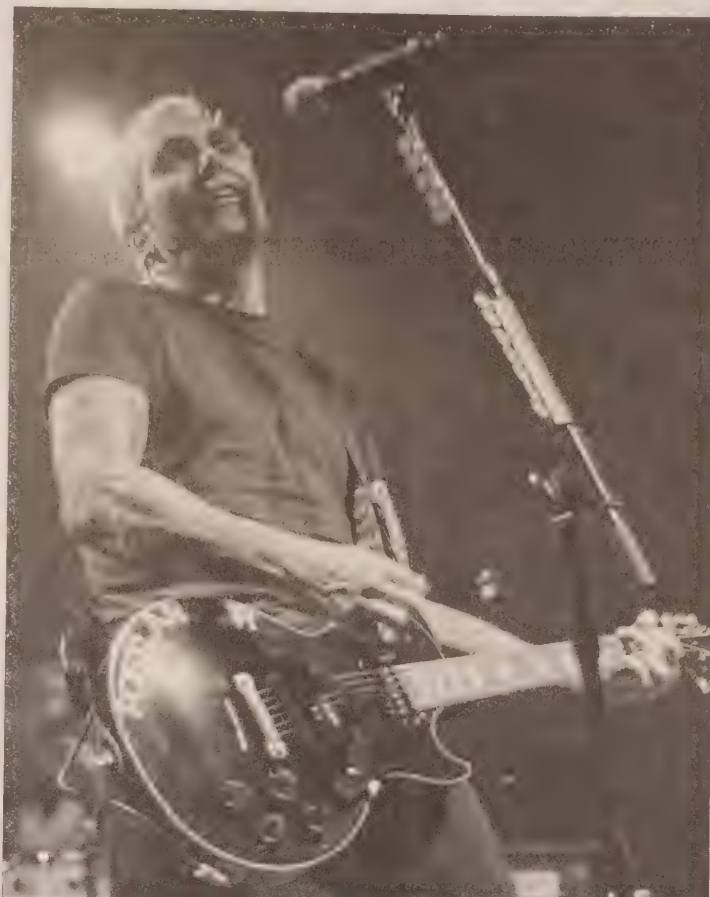
the music isn't. Yes Everclear is an old band, but Alexakis says they aren't past their prime. "We're known for our songwriting, so I thought covers would be a lot more fun and that people could just enjoy the fact that we're just a really good rock band. It's a fun summer album."

While Alexakis himself didn't seem like the type to hold grudges, he related some stories about the changes at Capitol that led to tension. When Everclear broke away from the label, Capitol retained all the rights to the songs produced during their time together.

So, Capitol put out a "greatest hits" album, which Alexakis called, "That s---ty one they put out for \$3.99." What's more, he said, "They put it out on the exact day that we put out *Welcome to the Drama Club*. It was the old president of the label. It's just a s---ty thing to do." Those guys are long gone now, so relations with Capitol are at least amicable at present.

So what's next for Everclear? After this album, Alexakis says he has another in the works. "I'm going to start doing downloadable singles, maybe downloadable albums. Because I hate the labels, I hate the middleman. No one makes any money. And the people who want the records pay too much money. You shouldn't pay more than \$10 for an album ... If I put an album up for download, and people can download it for \$10, after giving 20 percent to iTunes ... I can keep the 80 percent. I might not get rich, but with that, at least I can sustain a family." Something, he believes, that can't be done with the big labels, which take 80 percent.

For the immediate future, Alexakis said, "I have about eight or nine new songs. I want to write about 10 more, then go



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Everclear frontman Art Alexakis put on a lively and fresh, if under-attended, show last Friday.

in and make a record. I've got a pretty good vision about what I want to do ... I'd like to see it out by next summer. That's the plan; we'll see."

When I pressed him about the band's long-term plans, Alexakis said, "I think I have one more Everclear record. We'll see. I always say one more, I've been saying one more for four or five albums. I don't want to start going down the same road all the time. That's just boring. Some bands make a career out of making the same record over and over and over. But that's not my thing."

As anyone who went to the show Friday knows, Everclear cares about its fan relations. They set up a table after every show for a meet and greet — not

to feed Alexakis's ego, but rather because he knows how much it means to the fans.

"I don't enjoy signing autographs, but it's something that people like, to be able to come up and shake your hand. Or take a picture. Or whatever. If that's what they like, why not? They support us by buying tickets, by buying albums." The show, of course, ended with a huge girls-only dance party onstage. The crowd ate it up, and Everclear seemed to be having a great time after all these years. Sure, the backing band is different, and Alexakis's voice might have aged a bit. But the show was all Everclear, with no sign of anyone being tired of their middle-school favorites. Another album or two sounds just fine to me.

## New Vibrations

Moby  
*Last Night*  
Mute U.S.  
April 1, 2008



I'm not going to spend the beginning of this review talking about the commercial and artistic success of 1999 album *Play* — after a long absence from the club music scene, Moby deserves a clean slate on which to palate his return to nightlife starting with his new album *Last Night*.

What made and continues to make Moby a musical whiz kid is his ability to make electronica and dance music approachable, as he avoids (for the most part) those obnoxious pounding beats so familiar to the general public thanks to "Sandstorm." And Moby stays true to his roots in *Last Night* which serves as a survey of New York's nightclub scene.

Some might condemn Moby, claiming that this album is nothing new and simply a recycle of dance tracks we've heard before.

However *Last Night* is really nostalgia revamped, with the exception of "Everyday It's 1989," which is so indicative of the heyday of rave that it could have been lifted from an old cassette tape.

The album starts off with the cheesy and somewhat delicate melody on "Ooh Yeah" but quickly takes a turn for the best with "I Love to Move In Here" which is a strange melding of cool, sleek, almost tribal beats with classic '90s rap courtesy of the Cold Crush Brothers' Grandmaster Caz. Something about it effortlessly works in a way that makes you want to listen to it again.

It is obvious why Moby chose "Alice" as the single for the album: it similar to hip-hop songs that have now become the bread and butter of dance clubs.

—Sarah Sabshon

Nick Cave and  
the Bad Seeds  
*Dig!!! Lazarus*  
*Dig!!!*  
Anti Records  
April 8, 2008



At this point, what else could come from Nick Cave — the bibliophilic, Australian singer-songwriter, who looks like a greasy mechanic in his Sunday best and sounds like the sing-speaking spawn of Davids Byrne and Bowie — but a hilarious meditation on the afterlife? *Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!*, his fourteenth album with backing band The Bad Seeds, asks, "why should death be any more chaotic than life?" and answers, "why shouldn't it be?"

The title-track and opener finds Lazarus ("Larry") transported to celebrity-obsessed America, a celebrity in his own right for beating death. After a decadent, cross-country tour-de-force that ends in Ziggy Stardust-style self-destruction, with Larry "on the streets of New York City, in a soup queue, a dopefiend, a slave, then prison, then the madhouse, then the grave," he longs for the sort of blank, numb death he had before Jesus granted him and the rest of mankind eternal life.

Cave's knack for creating complex, fully-formed characters like Larry in four-minute poetic blasts is nearly unsurpassed in rock music; even Springsteen's Rosalita and Spanish Johnny are really just permutations of himself.

In "Today's Lesson", for example, we're never quite sure whether Mr. Sandman is Julie's pervert neighbor or her pet incubus, but it seems like even Janie doesn't know.

It's precisely this sort of ambivalence Cave is going for. In the centerpiece, "We Call Upon the Author", Cave addresses the sources of chaos and injustice, not knowing whether to blame humanity or God, not sure if this philosophizing is his curse or his reason to live.

When the lines threaten to collapse under his manic verbiage, Cave stands back, cries "Prolix", and the track dissolves into a white-noise-glazed, beat-box and fuzz-bass break before coming back faster, more intense, more

frightening.

Musically, Cave tailors his experiments in post-post-punk to his lyrics, often building songs out of long, strophic drum and bass grooves and leaving the Seeds to chant the hooks and choruses. Doors-like organs and acoustic guitars pad out the tracks, leaving electric guitars either squealing in the background, or cutting into the mix with fuzzed out riffs and hectic white-noise. It's a formula with an impressive range: "Albert Goes West" is like mid-nineties REM, had Michael Stipe twisted schoolyard puns into "the forest of Le Vulva" and "sucking a revolver", and had Peter Buck played his guitar with a fork; while "Moonland" evokes the cold, lunar landscape of the afterlife with its stark, jazz arrangement.

It's when Cave tinkers with this formula that the album sags. "Night of the Lotus Eaters", built on a sample of what first sounds like marimbas playing surf-rock but eventually becomes a foundation for backwards guitars and plastered sound-effects, is more meandering than stream-of-consciousness.

Towards the end, "Jesus of the Moon" is a "Moondance" tribute, complete with jazz flutes, and with no other purpose than to tie together the album's lyrical threads of Jesus and outer space.

Cave ends strong with "More News from Nowhere", which stretches its eight minutes to the limit, spinning a yarn about an afterlife populated by drag queens and Cyclops. It's an afterlife that's equal parts heaven and hell, where everyone wants your autograph, but then again, everyone wants your autograph.

Like Cave waiting for the after-after-life, we're left waiting for a resolution as Cave rides the guitar hook to the end with taunts of "goodbye". It's an impossible cliff-hanger where the only pay-off is to start the album over again.

—Max McKenna

## Fundraiser battle of the bands fails to rock the house

By AIDAN RENAGHAN  
News-Letter Staff Writer

There are a few things that consistently make any questionable music event infinitely better. The first is darkness, to ensure that even the shyest wallflower gets out and starts stomping around. Another is a late start time, so that all in attendance have nothing to accomplish afterwards and are in it for the long haul. The last and arguably most important thing to make any music event better is booze. Alcohol will turn even the duller event into a screaming sensation provided there is a will to drink.

Unfortunately all of these things were noticeably absent from Kappa Alpha Theta's latest fundraiser, "Rock the CASA." The sorority hosted the bands to raise money for the Theta funded organization, the Court Appointed Special Advocates program. This organization works to place mentors with kids who have been bounced around the social services system and gives them a voice in the midst of im-

personal government bureaucracy. The event attracted a variety of sponsors from the Charles Village area, such as PJ's and Coldstone Creamery, to donate both food and gift certificates for the event, which hosted four bands.

All this seemed good in theory but what people came for was the music and it was certainly not the best time for any of the bands involved. The 6 p.m. start time was entirely too early for even the most fervent supporters of student music (and we all know how many of those are on the Hopkins campus).

Adding to the problem was the location choice of the Great Hall in Levering, a vast space without a stage, which forced the bands to perform on the same plane as the audience. Lastly there was no booze, a crippling choice for any music event.

Live music is inexorably tied to altered states of mind and you could see the frustration of the audience, many of whom turned to sucking down the helium of the balloons that filled the Great Hall in harried desperation (I

don't think I saw a single balloon around by the end of the event, a hilariously disturbing sign of Theta's mistake).

Although there were logistical problems abound, the bands still came to play. The first of the lineup was the sophomore Phi Kappa Psi house band, The Bohdangles. The group played a strong set of covers, focusing on blues and classic rock. Guitarists Mike Hayek and Alex Day traded solos for crowd pleasers like "Crossroads" and "Say It Ain't So." The real star was lead singer Samuel Ball-Brau. He fought through the lackluster excitement for the band by singing his heart out. The highlight was a pitch-perfect version of the Violent Femmes' "Blister In The Sun," with Ball-Brau throwing around the mic and shaking around feverishly like Roger Daltrey singing "My Generation."

Next up was Scott Wham of SAE. Armed with only an acoustic guitar, Wham managed to amp up the crowd of Thetas. Opening with a cover of "Folsom Prison Blues" that blended in sections of "I Got A Woman," Wham got people moving. Not letting a broken foot impede him, he led the crowd in a sing along to Old Crow Medicine Show's "Rock Me Mama," and even threw in a sped up version of "Let's Stay Together," a song that I imagine is a definite closer for those lonely Saturday nights at SAE. Midway through the set I heard one audience member proclaim, "He only plays four chords, but he plays the sh\*t out of them."

Wham was followed by the Wawa band Mouthful of Egan (I don't get the name either). Their set was underwhelming and plagued with tech-

nical difficulties from the sound equipment, but they managed to offer up some college rock favorites including soothing renditions of Jack Johnson's "Breakdown," and Ben Harper's "Steal My Kisses."

Wawa showed up in full force to support their brothers, and demanded an encore from the band. After deliberating for a moment they came back on to play a cover of "Stir It Up" that went into "40 ounces of Freedom." However they had obviously not played the song in a while and the musical mistakes coupled with the overwhelming feedback from the amps showed that you should always leave the audience wanting more.

The event ended with the only performance of original songs, done by metal band Anubis Unbound. The band realized quickly that their performance was not necessarily going to go over well with the Hopkins crowd, but it didn't seem to deter them.

Front man Ziggy Smith grabbed the microphone before the first song, "When Innocence Dies," and thanked the audience for the opportunity to play, proclaiming to the inexperienced listeners, "Welcome to your first metal show."

The band was high energy and the union head thrashing by all five members incited audience members to join right along with them. Most of this was done in mockery more than excitement but it was encouraging to see some audience participation for a band that seemed completely out of their element.

Smith ended the set with the proclamation, "Some of you may not like metal, but it is music, and music makes the world go 'round." It was a nice moment to end the night. Although the conditions weren't the best for live music, there was still support for all of the bands, showing that music is good no matter where and when, even when you aren't drunk. But hopefully for next time Theta will remember that drinking can make it a whole lot better.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Anubis Underground proved the only competent songwriters with their original metal music.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



COURTESY OF RAINE BODE  
Christopher Ross, Steven Carpenter and Kaveh Haerian work together in a forgotten and less-than-perfect Shakespeare play.

Lesser-known Shakespeare wavers

By PATRICK KENNEDY  
News-Letter Staff Writer

While there are a few commanding performances in the Baltimore Shakespeare Festival's current production of *The Winter's Tale*, the show's main attraction isn't any single actor. It is, rather, Shakespeare's art. What director Kathleen Akerley has put together is a thoroughly economical though elegant piece of stagecraft. Although Elizabeth McFadden's scenic design has exquisite features — including a backdrop designed to look like azure stained glass — and although Heather Lockard's costumes are appropriately lush for Shakespeare's royal characters, these elements never become distracting. Aside from a few well-placed strobe lights, the show abjures emphatic spectacle for the more subtle pleasures of the Bard's poetry — transforming, on occasion, into a self-reflexive examination of fiction and storytelling itself.

However, lines like "who mayst see/Plainly as heaven sees earth and earth sees heaven/How I am galled" don't make this a perfect show — or, for that matter, a perfect script. Shakespeare's plot switches swiftly, and perhaps too neatly, from a tragic to a comic register, only to oscillate uneasily between the two as *The Winter's Tale* nears its end. But the BSF's rendition is beset by a few destabilizing, ambivalent moves that are more case-specific. Akerley's show indulges in plenty of double-, triple- and quadruple-casting of single actors. After a very strong start, and in spite of a consistent clarity and discipline, this strategy starts to rob the characters in this *Winter's Tale* of the lived-in depth that they deserve.

The story begins in the court of the Sicilian King Leontes (Steven Carpenter), who is shaken by the conviction that his pregnant wife Hermione (Teresa Castracane) has been having an affair with his fellow monarch,

Polixenes of Bohemia (Jonathan Watkins). After Polixenes flees his former friend's ire, Leontes imprisons his wife, alienates his nobles and provokes distress and sickness in his young son Mamillius (K. Clare Johnson). Even the child that Hermione soon delivers, a girl named Perdita, is banished from her father's sight. This tragic tone only breaks when the first half of Akerley's rendition draws to a close, as a group of kindly, comic shepherds discovers the infant Perdita. From there, the action moves into the adult life of the exiled princess (Lindsay Haynes) and barrels towards the kinds of recognitions and reconciliations that, in Shakespeare, are usually to be expected.

There are finer selections among Shakespeare's late plays. But if *The Winter's Tale* lacks the delicacy and brilliance of *The Tempest*, it is also spared the cloying potpourri quality of a work like *Cymbeline*. While a court drama might have invited a surfeit of pomp, the Festival wisely kept the staging fairly simple. A single throne and a single trapdoor are each enlisted in a wide array of representational purposes, allowing an exceptionally fluid progress from scene to scene.

Confining and recycling the actors, in contrast, wasn't a totally happy choice. Carpenter, for instance, toggles between Leontes and a rustic trickster named Autolycus throughout the second stretch. As a tragedian, he can be magnetic, while he approaches the comic material with an unctuous flippancy that eventually wears out its welcome. Operating as best she can within a sensitive pants role, Johnson makes Mamillius sweet but, beyond that, proves unconvincing. Yet a dose too much sugar can sometimes react nicely in Shakespeare's scenarios.

Just as Akerley's rustic scenes begin to verge on saccharine pleasantry, a series of epiphanies — made all the more jarring by the preceding repose — shakes

the mature Perdita's adopted world.

The occasional intractable fault didn't keep Akerley from approaching her material with an obvious intelligence. The Festival usually excels at working its shows into some complicated context, as the meditations on the use and abuse of power encouraged by recent BSF productions of *Julius Caesar*, *MacBeth* and Bertolt Brecht's *Antigone* nicely demonstrate. Even with the comedies — as last season's fine production of *All's Well that Ends Well* bears out — the company tends towards darkness. Storytelling and the imagination are naturally this *Winter's Tale*'s choice discussion points. But the power of the imagination to "frame reality," as Akerley's director's notes remark, is exactly what leads to Leontes's dubious though cataclysmic accusations of infidelity.

While always intriguing, this emphasis on narrative itself doesn't always operate flawlessly. The early scenes that find Mamillius and a nobleman named Camillo (Theo Hadjimichael) reading together should be poignant, but come off as rather quaint. Though these sequences weren't mandated by the original script, *The Winter's Tale* is about the only place in Shakespeare's corpus where you will find a report of a bear attack, a detail that, as delivered by a dunderheaded shepherd (Christopher Ross), strikes a note not of gore but of the gloriously bizarre.

Nonetheless, *The Winter's Tale* is not, by the standards of the Bard's output, an extraordinary work. Nor is this an extraordinary production. Yet it is a tribute to the frequent intelligence and verbal energy of its material, often delivered with a competence and care that, in themselves, are a form of excellence.

The *Winter's Tale* will be showing at the Baltimore Shakespeare Festival until April 24. Call (410) 366-8596 or visit [www.baltimore-shakespeare.org](http://www.baltimore-shakespeare.org) for more information.

Dancers embrace unconventionality

Continued from Page B3

certainly came across in performance. It is to the credit of the dancers that they were able to connect successfully with a piece that did rely on more classical movements.

What really stood out about the performance was that the textures of the pieces were all cohesive and all dancers seemed to have a clear grasp of what the artistic vision of the choreographer was. Byers's style is highly reminiscent of Alvin Ailey's, renowned choreographer famous for his classical, strong movements that combine elements of jazz and traditional ethnic movement. Ailey incorporated history and childhood memory into each of his pieces, giving his work lives of their own.

The dancers, in an effort to create a sense of unity and simplicity, wore unitards in each piece. These outfits tend to make dancers uncomfortable and self-conscious because they tend to reveal physical "flaws" and imperfections. However, unitards create a sleek line of color, which serves to accent the movements



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Byers's style and skill was evident in each piece of the performance.

and moreover the intricate shapes created in a modern piece. Some dancers seemed a little self-conscious about it, almost as if their facial expressions were apologizing for their outfits. As time went on they began to relax and their expressions became more reflective of each piece.

The showcase was a

phenomenal exhibition of talent, emotion and a real dedication to the performing arts. The audience tangibly felt a connection to the dancers and the moods they were portraying. It is clear that the JHU Modern Dance company broke down traditional movements and went "over the top" and beyond conventional limits.

Photography talk reveals reality of conflict

Continued from Page B3

gunpoint to pass through the Beit Iba checkpoint.

Another pictured two men walking away from the camera. One of the men, a soldier, had an arm leaning over the other's shoulder which, in any other situation would seem like a sign of jovial friendship, except for the pair of handcuffs tying the civilian's hands behind his back. This picture, called "Handcuffed, led by a soldier" was captured at Huwwara Checkpoint.

Tsal further played with irony in another photograph at the Beit Iba Checkpoint, called "God and Men's Hands" This had an unmistakable resemblance to Michelangelo's "The Creation of Adam" in the Sistine Chapel. It showed one hand reaching out to another, handing it a slip of paper, implying the near-godly power of the checkpoints in the lives of Palestinians living in Israel.

In Tsai's opinion, "once you see you cannot stop seeing." She takes the pictures because "it doesn't leave you."

Rima Essa, a Palestinian cinematographer, director and producer in Israel, was the second speaker of the evening. She was the first Palestinian graduate of the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem and has had many of her documentaries widely shown at film festivals.

She introduced herself as "a second-class citizen" whose voice inside Israel is mute and whose voting rights are nominal. She spoke of her struggle to create a documentary about children with leukemia.

Essa explained, "I cannot have a press card unless I am mak-



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Israeli photographer Esti Tsai brought irony to the forefront in her exhibit.

ing a film about butterflies. And there are no butterflies in the West Bank." She therefore faced constant heckling by police in the area.

After some brief technical difficulties, the audience viewed her documentary, called *The Garbage Cage*, which revealed the lives of Palestinians who are forced to dig for iron in garbage dumps at very young ages to make a living.

The abject poverty was evident when a boy too young to go to school was forced into long hours of manual labor simply to

help his family get by. Another boy had to drop out of school to aid his family. His only response to his situation was, "I want to go to school; I have a good average."

After hearing the hopelessness of "the garbage people" and their lives, the documentary ended in silence. Not a single audience member moved or clapped. Later, freshman Sam Jockel described it, saying, "it was really powerful. I didn't really have a sense of what was going on until I saw the young boy at the garbage dump."

After the documentary aired, both artists opened the panel up for questions. One woman, Larne Berk, voiced her willingness to aid in the situation, saying, "We have made human beings — loving, democratic, sensitive people — barbarians, and Arabs are not barbarians," and suggested a Marshall Plan-like arrangement could help.

JHUT presents universal issues in Victorian comedy La Ronde

Continued from Page B3

choice (to depict how much we change in interactions with different people), but it was an interesting problem to take into account, considering the set-up of the play.

The body work in the play

was also well-done. The first scene (the Whore and the Soldier) made no bones about getting the physical sexuality going: Within the first couple of minutes the two were petting each other. The scene between the Little Miss and the Poet (senior

Tony Chiarito) in particular had great physical interactions: At points it was amazing how well Mumby could continue to enunciate her lines even when being tossed about like a rag doll by Chiarito in his Poet's passions.

The fact that the actors were in two adjacent scenes, contrasting their acting from scene to scene, also allowed for some great subtle shifts in character, for example in Wiesinger's Wife's facial expressions (she looks up skeptically from her book at the sound of her Husband's entrance) and speech patterns (from rapidly pattering with the Gentleman to more meek and quiet with her husband).

Another issue was that only in this scene was there a slight disjunction between the costumes and set (both beautifully and accurately done in late Victorian style), and the language, which sometimes seemed modern enough to be clipped from a sitcom ("I've never banged a name like that," or "baby," for ex-

ample). John Astin said, however, that "much of the modern sound comes from Schnitzler's original: just one of the ways he was ahead of his time." What little was altered was done with the original text on hand and done to maintain modern credibility.

The set construction was impressive which, though composed of only two major components and some minor ones, was very effective.

The scene changes went smoothly thanks in large part to this creative set-up, which included a variable bed. The bed and its backboard were originally shrouded to depict the outdoor scenes, then they were unveiled for scene three in the Young Gentleman's house.

It made quite an impact for the lights to come up and for the audience to immediately see a huge bed on the stage. The backboard had a round panel that was reversed for each scene, with images on each side, to show different rooms. The curtains around the piece's window were also rearranged from scene to scene.

The lighting, for the most part complemented the action of the set quite well: neither too bright, blinding the actors, nor too dim,

obscuring the action. There was one timed cue (when the curtains were drawn in the Young Gentleman's room) which went smoothly, and the use of one bright overhead light in the first scene effectively depicted a street lamp's lighting.

Overall this production, even on opening night, handled the given task wonderfully. All the actors (who could rehearse in groups of only two or three at a time, thanks to the play's set-up) had great chemistry, and though the occasional line was swallowed and sometimes the post-coital scenes were less than believable, the performance was thoroughly enjoyable.

This play at the end certainly left the audience amused, but this was no shallow romp. You might be surprised if you go into the play thinking a 19th-century German playwright has nothing to say about sex and gender today.

JHUT's production of *La Ronde* will continue this weekend in the Merrick Barn on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$13 for seniors/staff/faculty/alumni and \$15 general admission.

After the documentary aired, both artists opened the panel up for questions. One woman, Larne Berk, voiced her willingness to aid in the situation, saying, "We have made human beings — loving, democratic, sensitive people — barbarians, and Arabs are not barbarians," and suggested a Marshall Plan-like arrangement could help.

Essa replied with, "there is no hope ... it's like making a profit on the conflict." She followed with, "I know when I come back I will deal with these things." Continuing, she said "I do not feel like an artist, that I'm making documentaries, because it's like a business-it's not like being an artist."

After much prompting from the audience, Essa did not change her opinion, Berk asked her "shall we try nothing?" in disbelief, to which Essa only nodded her head.

"I'm hopeless too, but I don't say it out loud, because then what?" Tsai asked after the event in response to Essa's unexpected comments.

"I don't really think she feels that way ... I don't know whether it's to charge us even more, I mean why cry if there is no hope?" Berk asked.

Senior Salmah Rizvi felt "it was a great event ... I think that there has to be more awareness on this campus, especially about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on either side."



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Senior Liz Eldridge and junior Scott Morse star in *La Ronde* as the Actress and the Count.



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Kidneys damage lungs with inflammatory signals

By ANN WANG  
For The News-Letter

About half of patients with acute kidney problems die because other, undamaged organs suddenly begin to shut down.

A research team from the Hopkins School of Medicine has found that in mice, the damaged kidneys are sending out protein signals that cause inflammation and organ dysfunction in otherwise healthy organs.

Drugs that can target and inactivate these specific proteins may help halt further organ failure in patients with kidney damage.

The research team, led by immunologist Dmitry Grigoryev, focused on the lungs' response to kidney failure. The lungs are often the first organ affected in these cases, and only 20 percent of kidney-damaged patients survive subsequent lung damage.

Grigoryev's team cut off circulation to the kidneys of lab mice for an hour to cause irreversible tissue damage.

A second group had circulation cut off for half an hour and a control group received a sham operation where the blood supply was not restricted.

The research team then analyzed the genetic activity and chemical changes in the mice's lung and kidney tissues. Although blood supply was only cut off to the kidneys, the team found similar tissue damage in the lungs.

The approximately 109 genes that control the inflammatory response for both organs showed heightened activity in the same areas.

The first group showed the greatest lung tissue injury and changes in the greatest number of genes, both persisting even 36 hours after blood flow was restored.

The second group showed changed expression in fewer genes, which were insignificant compared to those in the group receiving the sham operation, and which disappeared 36 hours after restored blood flow.

When the kidneys are injured, these genes are activated to cause inflammation at the damage site. Among other responses, the genes cause the kidney and white blood cells to secrete inflammatory proteins called interleukin-6 and interleukin-10 into the bloodstream.

These proteins in turn reach other organs through the circulatory system, provoke an inflammatory response and can cause organ failure.

Lungs are especially susceptible because their large network of capillaries, the smallest blood vessels, exposes them to almost all of the chemicals passing through the bloodstream.

Although the lungs of a patient may have been perfectly healthy, the toxic signals sent out by the kidneys make them behave as if they were also damaged kidney



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The kidneys' blood supply, seen with a contrast X-ray, carries toxins to the lungs.

tissue.

This study was the first to examine the genetic changes in both kidneys and distant organs as a result of kidney damage. They identified the two proteins most likely responsible for organ failure after kidney injury out of over 1,000 inflammatory proteins.

They also discovered that there are several proteins that serve as mediators between inflammation at the local site and

in distant organs.

Eventually, drugs that specifically disable inflammatory proteins or these mediators can be given to patients with kidney damage to stave off failure of other organs.

Grigoryev and his team plan to study the lungs of mice that have been genetically modified and are unable to manufacture those specific inflammatory proteins, to see if this change can reduce lung damage in kidney failure.

## Are you fidgety? Study looks at causes of repetitive motion

By DEANNA CHIECO  
News-Letter Staff Writer

People perform many repetitive movements throughout the day. People might bite their nails if stressed or nervous.

Someone might pace back and forth if he is anxious or deep in thought, and a bored student in class might tap a pencil against the desk repetitively.

There is an important distinction between repetitive movements that might be associated with a disease and those that are just minor habits.

Many developmental disorders, such as autism and mental retardation, are associated with stereotypical movements. This means that a person has involuntary and repetitive movements that follow a certain pattern.

Excessive head-nodding and arm-waving are considered motor stereotypes, which are usually quite prevalent in these disorders.

However, three neurologists from Hopkins Hospital, led by Harvey Singer, are studying these stereotypical motor behaviors in children without severe developmental disorders.

Prior research has focused more on stereotyped behaviors in children with autistic disorders rather than on non-autistic children. In fact, the largest study previously performed on motor behaviors of non-autistic children only included 40 children.

This new study extended the research conducted on the 40 original patients but also added another 60 patients.

Children could be included in this study if they did not exhibit other psychological or behavioral deficits. Also, these children needed to display repetitive, stereotypical movements.

Rather than minor behaviors like nail-biting, motor behaviors needed to be involuntary and persistent in order to be included in the study. Specifically, excessive hand- or arm-waving and head-nodding were the two main stereotypical behaviors studied.

It is interesting that many of

the patients had relatives with similar motor behaviors. The researchers hypothesized that a family history of a stereotypical movement could be one of the causes of this behavior in children.

Other potential causes include the coincidence of stereotypical movements with other disorders, which were not considered major developmental ones.

For example, about half of the children in this study had attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), obsessive-compulsive disorder or other motor tics.

Also, there is the possibility that the brain areas involved in producing Tourette syndrome, which involves involuntary motor and verbal behaviors, could also produce stereotypical motor behaviors in non-autistic children.

These stereotypical movements can occur when a child is experiencing many different emotions simultaneously. Stress, excitement and high attention level can all stimulate these movements.

There is evidence that if the child is distracted or if a parent calls his or her name, the movements can cease temporarily.

Parents were originally told in the past that such movement behaviors would decrease with age. However, this study found that most of these behaviors persisted over the course of the study.

Only six of the 100 children actually stopped exhibiting these repetitive movements. Also, there seems to be better recovery in children who had repetitive head nodding as compared to those with excessive hand waving.

If the symptoms last for more than one year, it seems complete recovery is unlikely.

Further research into the brain circuitry as well as the genetic components to stereotypical motor behaviors could provide a better understanding of how these movements are associated with specific developmental or neurological disorders as well as why they persist in children with typical development.

## Native pathway protects cells from cancer-causing damage

By SAM OHMER  
News-Letter Staff Writer

One of the basic principles of cell biology is that cells can respond to different conditions, both within and outside the cell. Cells have to do this to maintain homeostasis, their natural equilibrium state that corresponds to a good health for the cell.

The ability to respond to chemical insults is of particular importance because these insults often lead to cancer or other cellular problems. Chemical insults — the presence of a potentially problematic chemical — can lead to a wide range of negative effects on a cell.

An international team of cancer biologists led by Paul Talalay of the Hopkins School of Medicine recently published an analysis of the activity of one such system, a natural defense against a particularly potent type of cellular injury.

The group looked at a cancer-fighting mechanism that involves the activation of a number of proteins.

They determined that a buildup of harmful chemicals in a cell, many of which are linked to common cancers, can switch on this system through a simple and elegant pathway.

These proteins, which include glutathione-S-transferase (GST) and NADPH-quinone oxidoreductase (NQO1), are enzymes that act as antioxidants, ridding cells of a particularly dangerous class of molecules called free radicals.

A free radical is a particle with an extra, unpaired electron. This electron is highly reactive and willing to combine with just about any other chemical, so free

radicals are able to damage or destroy sensitive tissues in the body, often by targeting DNA.

The genes that code for proteins like GST and NQO1 are controlled by antioxidant response elements, or AREs, which bind to the genes and activate the production of the corresponding proteins.

The problem is that free radicals are created naturally by many normal cellular functions, such as the breakdown of food for energy, as well as by exposure to environmental toxins like tobacco, drugs and alcohol.

The key is to stop this destructive process before it can spread too widely, thus increasing the chance of DNA or cellular damage. Cancer is just one of many illnesses known to be linked to free radicals. Activating AREs is a central part of the protective response.

The team worked out the chemical steps that lead to the activation of AREs. Like many biological processes, there is a natural feedback loop that has developed in this pathway.

Free radical damage causes several chemicals to accumulate in cells. These chemicals interact to activate AREs and the antioxidant response.

The team focused their efforts on NQO1, one of the two antioxidant enzymes. They performed a series of theoretical chemical analyses to determine that NQO1 is activated in two simple steps.

Both steps use reduction-oxidation or "redox" chemistry, a type of modification that involves the transfer of an electron pair between two chemicals. Oxidation refers to the gain of electrons; reduction is the loss of electrons.

In the first step, compounds

called phenols are oxidized to a related chemical called quinone by the free radicals that are building up in the cell. The level of quinones floating in the cell corresponds with the amount of free radical that has been released.

In the second step, quinone oxidizes part of a protein, Keap1, that is an indirect inducer of AREs.

The oxidation of Keap1, which effectively acts as a free radical sensor, opens an opportunity for another protein to activate the ARE and transcribe the antioxi-

dant NQO1 protein.

This pathway is elegant because it takes advantage of the natural results of free radical release, the redox class of reactions, to produce a signal the cell can understand: to produce more protein to fight these radicals.

Because the different steps in this pathway have been worked out, scientists can more effectively predict which drugs might act more effectively to induce NQO1 expression, helping cells protect themselves against free radicals and the diseases they can cause.

## Vitamin B9 protects heart during and after heart attack

By BARBARA HA  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States today, and acute myocardial infarctions — heart attacks — make up a considerable number of those deaths. Over 850,000 Americans had a heart attack in 2007 alone. For years, scientists and physicians have sought ways to prevent heart attacks or to blunt their effects when they are happening.

A new international study suggests that folic acid, or vitamin B9, can do just that.

Heart attacks result from a lack of oxygen supply to the heart muscle itself, which has serious consequences because the heart is a highly active muscle that needs a lot of oxygen to work. The early period of low oxygen is called ischemia, but after a time the damage can become permanent, a condition known as an infarct.

An infarct can cause severe tissue scarring, changes in the structure and size of the heart muscle, arrhythmias or abnormal heart rhythms, long-term heart failure, blood clots and increased risk of future heart attacks. The

best way to prevent these consequences is to reduce the severity of the initial heart attack.

A group of cardiologists and scientists led by David Kass from Hopkins looked at folic acid, which has long been

thought to be able to help heart function. Folic acid is known to have antioxidant properties, which decrease tissue damage by soaking up toxic particles known

as free radicals.

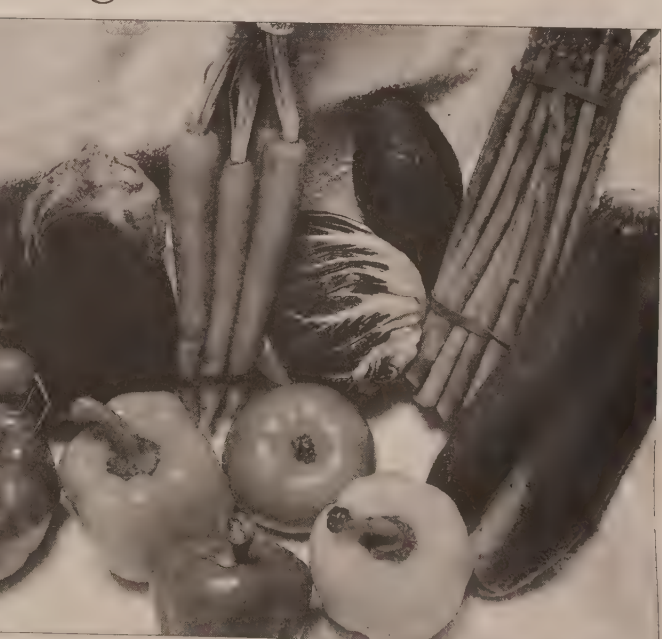
The scientists gave folic acid to rats before experimentally inducing heart attacks, to see if the vitamin could decrease the effects of ischemia. In comparison with non-treated controls, rats on folic acid had less heart damage and better recovery from heart attacks. They showed significantly less tissue damage when looked at under a microscope.

A fairly short treatment dose at a high concentration — lasting just one week before the induction of a heart attack — was sufficient to create a protective effect. Overall, the treated rats had infarcts about 90 percent smaller in size than in the untreated controls.

Drawing from these preliminary experiments on mice, researchers concluded that pre-treatment with folic acid can help lessen the severity of tissue damage caused by myocardial infarction, or heart attack.

There are several potential mechanisms for the results observed by the researchers. It is known that the heart con-

tinues to pump during a heart attack, often at an even greater rate to compensate for the oxygen decrease caused by an injured heart. This continued high-rate



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Folic acid is a necessary vitamin in many cellular pathways and is found in most common vegetables.

beating is energetically costly for a damaged heart.

Folic acid is known to work in the mitochondrion, the part of the cell that produces chemical energy. This study and others suggest that folic acid could act as a reserve of the cellular energy currency, phosphate, even when the heart muscle is damaged.

The extra phosphate levels provided by folic acid might be enough to tide over the heart until normal oxygen levels are restored, thus reducing the long-term effects of a heart attack.

Current therapy for treating patients after a heart attack involves using a range of medications, including drugs like Lipitor that decrease the buildup of cholesterol in the coronary arteries, as well as drugs like aspirin that thin the blood and reduce inflammation.

Surgery on the heart muscle or on the coronary arteries, either with angioplasty or an arterial

bypass, may also be performed.

The next step is a study of the effects of folic acid on human heart attack patients. A major complication is the dose: The mice received a dose that would be very difficult for people to take orally on a regular basis.

Folic acid is found in a variety of vegetables and is a common ingredient in multivitamins. Previous studies have indicated beneficial effects of folic acid on the brain and other organs.

It has also long been known that taking folic acid during pregnancy reduces the risk of spina bifida, a birth defect that causes mental retardation and paralysis.

If the results of this study, which appears in this week's issue of the journal *Circulation*, are replicated in humans, they could provide an easy way to help reduce the severity of heart attacks in hundreds of thousands of patients.



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The mitochondrion, where most cellular energy is produced, also makes free radicals.



# Graduate student trying to produce fake meteorites in the oven

By LENA DENIS  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Unusual meteorites may soon be found in the furnace of an Olin Hall laboratory, where second-year graduate student Holly Brown hopes to synthesize materials that could answer questions about the universe's oldest materials.

Brown's research is in petrology — the study of rocks. She deals with pallasites, rare meteorites that are not often found on Earth. Pallasites have a beautiful appearance due to their extraordinary properties and mysterious formation: They are essentially chunks of iron and nickel metal with a green mineral, olivine, running through them.

"Meteorites are kind of the origin of our solar system and everything is thought to have come condensed from them. It's how we have planets. So I'm interested in making a laboratory or synthetic analog to what we see in nature," she said.

Brown first fired up the oven a month ago, and over the past few weeks it has been getting progressively hotter, finally reaching the desired temperature of around 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit, which is six times hotter than that of a kitchen oven's maximum. Two weeks ago, Brown officially began the experiment.

"Pallasites [exist in] two main

phases, as a metal [made of] iron and nickel — right now we're just focusing on the iron aspect, because it's mostly iron — and [as] a silicate mineral called olivine."

Brown's process to create this material consists of filling a capsule with about one teaspoon of iron powder, then encasing the capsule within several blocks of ceramic, which can withstand very high temperatures.

She drills a hole in the top ceramic block so that if the iron melts and moves around, it can flow upwards instead of sinking through the pores of the ceramic into the bottom of the oven.

Brown and the team helping her knew that the iron would sink due to its density, but there was a lot that could not be foreseen about these particular materials at this particular temperature for this much time.

For one thing, they had to hope that the iron wouldn't react with ceramic, and since the oven was so hot Brown could not check on the sample very often once it reached its top temperature, meaning hours of waiting and hoping that when she could finally remove the sample nothing would combust due to the sudden extreme heat leaving the furnace.

As with all beginning scientific experiments, unforeseen complications ensued. Brown's first experiment, as she put it, "exploded a little bit."

The silicate capsule in which she had placed the iron powder melted. Although ceramic is able to withstand high temperatures, the time in which it was in the unimaginably hot oven proved too much for the blocks, which began to flow like liquid and looked "deformed like a marshmallow," according to

Brown.

She laughed that security was called because of the weird smell emanating from the oven all week, and she recounted having a colleague stand by her at the oven with a fire extinguisher when it was time to remove the sample. The experiment certainly was not perfect, but Brown had not expected it to be and she knows where to go from here.

"I didn't realize that some material properties, their quoted temperatures are just for short amounts of time, whatever that may be, hours or a minute. So I need to be a little bit more careful with reading in the texts what something can withstand and think about the context of a prolonged heating period."

Brown said she will find new capsule materials that will not melt in these conditions so that in time she can contain the iron sample and add olivine so that an actual pallasite will be visible.

When asked why she thought all this trouble and all this work was worthwhile, Brown replied, "If we have similar compositions or similar numbers for real pallasites as we do in our experiment, then maybe we can start to piece together the formation history, because what we did in the lab is documented and it's for sure. What we know for formation in space is a theory."

Brown pointed out that physicists have theorized a lot about the universe and its formation, and chemists have been able to analyze falling meteorites and other materials that can give us hints, but for an igneous petrologist like Brown, the importance lies in the texture of the rocks she finds, as well as the ones she is creating.

"Anything that comes from an original composition [in space] can tell us maybe about how we evolved, or when we evolved. There's tons of implications for anything," Brown said. She cited the familiar example of Pluto's de-classification as a planet, though its status was once set in the minds of schoolchildren (and adults) everywhere.



CONOR KEVIT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Holly Brown is working on making an artificial pallasite in a high-temperature oven.

Research like hers could lead to new systems of meteorite classification and new understandings of processes on Earth and elsewhere in the solar system.

Brown's adviser, Bruce Marsh, has been instrumental to this unique project. Marsh encouraged her to do an experiment with meteorites, and she decided to focus on pallasites. No one has ever done such experiments with these temperatures and these materials before.

"The University is great because we have a wide range of funding available to us and a lot of scholarships are available to graduate students in particular."

After graduating with a B.S. in Geophysics from the University of Rochester in 2006, Brown came to Hopkins a year ago to do a five-year Ph.D. program in the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department.

She said her first year was productive because she had time to come up with a dissertation project, which will comprise this pallasite research, and she was able to wait a year before having to teach. She is a teaching assistant

for a course taught by Marsh.

Marsh has recently been profiled by National Geographic for a nature documentary series that will air this summer and will include a presentation on his work. Brown cited working with him as her primary reason for coming to Hopkins.

With Marsh and another colleague, Brown went to Antarctica over winter break to help collect samples and have an "educational experience."

She said that due to Antarctica's bare surroundings compared to the rest of Earth, she was able to do a lot of "in-your-face geology" there with no trees or weathering elements to obscure what she was looking for.

Brown expects to work on this project for several more months before she has a pallasite that she can work with. She is prepared to make as many mistakes as she needs to before she gets the sample right, and she hopes to explain previously unfathomable phenomena.

"It's very open to change until you actually get what you're looking for."

## GameBridge streams TV to computer

By DENNIS KO  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Want to watch TV but don't have space or money for one? What about playing video games on a laptop from a system like Wii? There are now a variety of products on the market that allow you to do just that.

Today, I'm going to talk about the TV tuner I have, the Adaptec GameBridge. The GameBridge is a tiny USB device that processes incoming video sources and feeds them to your computer to display.

The GameBridge outputs the signal through its software, Intervideo Home Theater. Through that setup, it is as if you're watching TV on your monitor instead of on a traditional TV.

Intervideo Home Theater also allows you to record TV shows and screenshots.

The best thing about the GameBridge is the price; it can be purchased online for less than \$20 now, while other similar devices cost around \$100.

My only gripe about this device is the installation process. You need to install a driver from a CD they provided, so the device is not plug-and-play.

The user experience is great, though. The quality was decent and there was no noticeable lag-time. Overall, it's a great bargain, and I'd highly recommend it to all students looking to save some space or money here and there.

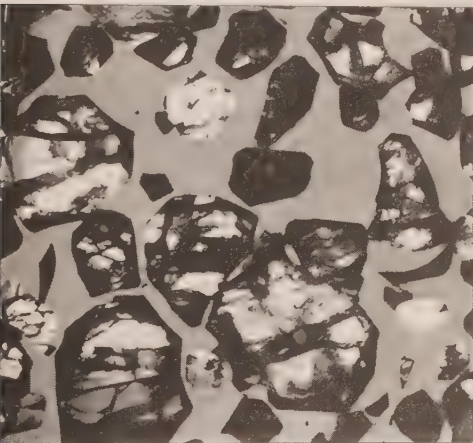
### GAMEBRIDGE

From: Adaptec

Price: \$20 online

Available at: Online electronics retailers

Grade: A



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.LSU.EDU  
A sample of pallasite shows dark rock with flecks of olivine.

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# YOUR NEWS-LETTER

## Bird's Eye View: Stress is a problem for many

By CARASELICK  
Your News-Letter Editor

Hopkins is, without a doubt, one of the busiest places I have ever spent time at. Not to mention one of the most highly strung. Any one person plucked out of the crowd on campus can rattle off a list of things to do a mile long. For example, as I sit here frantically pounding at my keyboard, I am in fact at work. Next to me a collection of Chekhov's short stories lies open on page 421.

On a yellow pad of paper is scratched a rough idea of articles for this week's paper. And as soon as I finish up at my job, I have to run straight to rehearsal for the Spring Musical. Without time to pick up dinner. Three separate people have already claimed to have "failed" mid-terms today and one has even "given up on all this". There are few places where you'll find somebody studying under a bed onstage. Hopkins is one, perhaps the only. The worst part about this pressure cooker is that, for the most part, we do this to ourselves.

Nobody is there with a gun to our heads telling us that we have to join Habitat and go build houses on Saturday mornings or else. Nobody is demanding we do bellydancing or they'll hurt our families. Of course not! We do these things because they, mainly, make us happy. They are activities we enjoy doing. We take higher level courses to learn something more in depth about a subject we love (or to impress graduate schools).

We spend hours preparing for events that other people may find absurd. While I'm up until three in the morning pumping out my latest essay or short story, I often get asked "If it's stressing you out so much and making you so upset, why are you taking so many hard courses?" And I can only think to reply, "Because I enjoy them!" Even I have to grimace at the irony.

From what little I can remem-

Many CEOs and other people employed in the "big bad" corporate world develop something known as general adoption syndrome, which is just a fancy way of saying chronic stress. It wouldn't surprise me if many people here at Hopkins generated the same symptoms as well. If you're under constant stress, such as handling millions of dollars and having to put together company changing projects overnight, you can get

out and cranky as well. A well-balanced diet and filling carbohydrates help to keep your temper in check. Sleeping enough at night and exercising are key as well. Natalie Goldberg has famously said, "Stress is basically a disconnection from the earth, a forgetting of the breath. Stress is an ignorant state. It believes that everything is an emergency. Nothing is that important. Just lie down."

As well as physical solutions, there are the lifestyle changes as well. Planning in advance, doing things in steps and setting small, incremental goals are all good ways to cut off stress at its source by not letting things get ahead of you.

Several things can stress us out and make our days seem far too short to fit in everything we have to do, while feeling far too long and drawn out at the same time. We may simply take on too many responsibilities. Or feel the pressure to adhere to too many rules. Or maybe there are simply outside sources of agitation pushing us over the edge. All of the articles on this page more or less

discuss things which annoy us, agitate us, and stress us out. Most of the stress here is unfounded and can be easily fixed by simply not viewing every little bump in the road and assignment as a life or death issue. Sure, everybody here has a lot of work, but we opted into this! And supposedly everybody is in a major they're passionate about and working toward doing what they love. So next time you're complaining about a programming assignment at 2 a.m. remember that life is *always* going to be stressful. This isn't meant to stress you out more, but to realize that no one task should be more scary than the one before or the one after.

sick. Physically ill. Chronic stress weakens your immune system, toys with your hormones and can even essentially irritate your nervous system to the point where your brain is more susceptible to stress. Therefore making those stressed out more likely to stay stressed out forever.

Taking deep breaths can help fight stress. It helps the oxygen flow to your brain and corrects mood imbalances and such. Or you could have a more positive outlook on life in general. Although that's rather hard to accomplish, especially depending on your personality type. If you're malnourished, you're more likely to get easily stressed

ber about biology, stress is *meant* to be a good thing. The phrase "fight or flight" is most relevant when trying to describe why we feel so awful when we have too much on our plates. In the most basic of terms, your nervous system senses you're in danger, either because of a physical or mental/emotional threat and your heart beats faster, your body sweats to cool down, and all of the blood rushes to your muscles to help you fight ... or flee.



LAUREN SCHWARZMANN/GRAPHICS STAFF

## WHATCHA THINK?

### What grinds your gears?



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

When people call it "John Hopkins" ... I hate that!  
— Evelyn Clark '10



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The question, "So what are you doing after you graduate?" Or people who go over all their answers on an exam right after they take it.  
— Lisa Carey '08



LAURA BITNER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

I hate it when I get in the shower in the morning and it takes 20 minutes to be a surviveable temperature ... the pipes are so old here, it takes forever!  
— Jessica Lambertson '09

## YOUR tracks

Compiled by Evan Chin

Music has a powerful effect on people's lives. More specifically, music has a powerful effect on people's moods. Good music can make you forget about everything bad in your life and escape to a safe haven of your own.

On the other hand, bad music is equally effective. An awful song can leave you ticked off, unhappy and completely anxious.

Here are five songs that I personally find extremely annoying as well as five songs that take the edge off after being subjected to the first five. Use with caution:

I'm not a fan of:

1. "Cupid's Chokehold," by Gym Class Heroes

Simple. I listened to this every effing day when I was working during the summer. Play some different music please.

2. "Makes Me Wonder," by Maroon 5

Don't get me wrong. I love Maroon 5. They're great but I just don't see why this one should be one of their great songs. Someone, enlighten me!

3. "Yahhh!" by Soulja Boy

So "Crank That" was all right. It was catchy and made for a very good dance. As for me, I keep wondering what happened to real rap music. Tupac, please come back from the dead and revitalize rap.

4. "Lollipop," by Lil' Wayne

No comment.

5. Any song by Britney Spears

Why are you still around? No, no, no!

I recommend:

1. "8 Become 1," by Norwegian Recycling

This guy takes songs and combines them to make a mashup. You can download several of his albums. Check this one out on YouTube. It comes highly recommended.

2. "You Can't Count on Me," by Counting Crows

This is from their very new album *Saturday Nights and Sunday Mornings*. I liked it, and I think every Counting Crows fan will too.

3. "Stop and Stare," by One Republic

Along with "Mercy" and "Apologize," I'd have to say that One Republic did something right.

4. "Take You There," by Sean Kingston

I know that it has been around. It's catchy. It's refreshing to not hear "Beautiful Girls" again.

5. "I'm a Pirate, You're a Princess," by PlayRadioPlay!

It's a mix of alternative and ... electronic? I think that it is good. Or that it's at least worth checking out.

## Out of sight, out of mind: hiding dorm contraband

By JULIA DISCHELL  
News-Letter Staff Writer

Housing selection time is always chaotic here at Hopkins. There is no rhyme or reason to the lottery number you get, if you even get one at all.

Hopkins is not a really large school, so I personally do not understand why it does not guarantee housing for all four years.

If NYU can do so when it is smack-dab in the middle of the largest, most crowded city in America, I feel like Hopkins should as well.

However, there is definitely at least one major benefit of living off campus, even if you're forced to do so — you no longer have to worry about sneaking things in. You know what I'm talking about.

I remember getting that list of contraband objects before coming here freshman year. The prohibition of drugs, alcohol and firearms makes sense to me, but apparently you also

cannot have cloth banners, empty food or beverage containers (Oops! I'm totally guilty of that one), orange security cones (but any other color is fine?) and live Christmas trees.

If you don't believe me, this list of items can be found in the "Experience Hopkins" guidebook we got at the beginning of the year.

Nevertheless, what is one to do if one wants to have these things in the dorms? Well, I don't know about the live Christmas trees and orange security cones (this rule baffles me completely) but anything else is fairly easy to hide. Candles, hookahs and weapons can all easily fit into closets and drawers when room check time comes around.

I would also suggest that you open a window when you use anything that requires fire, as it is quite hard to be inconspicuous when your fire alarm is going off.

Also, it would probably be beneficial not to have a street-

facing room if you want to use these items.

Residential Life tells you that room checks are only once a semester, but this is not the case.

They also usually come around during the longer breaks like Thanksgiving, winter break and spring break, looking for contraband objects then as well. Keep that in mind if you plan on hiding anything in your dorm.

I have had many friends that have had things taken out of their rooms during these times, including alcohol they had sitting out in their kitchen.

I would be careful with the rules against cloth banners, ceiling hangings, tapestries and large posters. It would be annoying to constantly be taking them down and putting them back up.

Personally, I wonder what they do if they find an excess of empty food or beverage containers in a room. Do they remove them like they do everything else that is prohibited?

If so, I wish one of them would take a walk through my room right now. I could use the help.

A problem that plagues both on- and off-campus residents is how to hide a pet. None of the on-campus residence halls allow them, only a few apartment buildings are OK with them and those that are usually charge at



FILE PHOTO

While Charles Commons may be state-of-the-art and top-of-the-line, a tiny candle is still a threat!

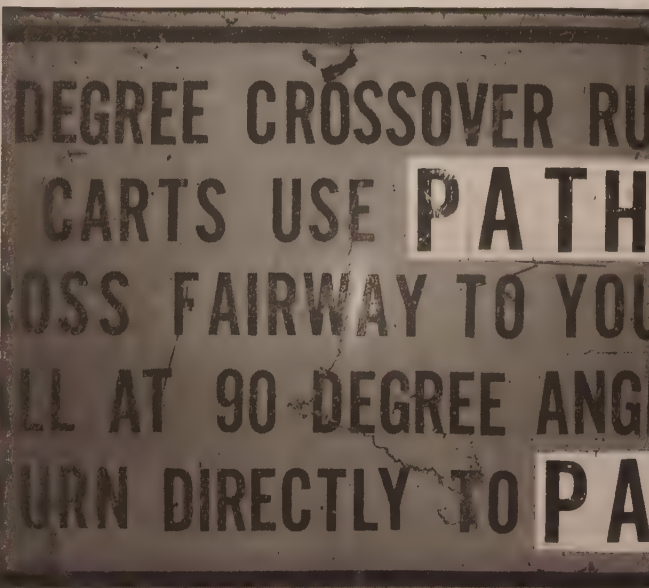
least a small fee if you want to have one.

Pet-hiding is a bit more difficult than hookah-hiding, as one could imagine. Hookahs do not make nearly as much noise as dogs, and they don't need to be walked.

I would not recommend getting a pet if your residence does not allow one, but if you insist, be smart and get something that doesn't make noise and does not need to be taken out of the room. Cats, hamsters, guinea pigs, iguanas and turtles are all good choices. Make sure you clean its living space often so the smell does not permeate the hallway.

I do not condone unnecessary rule-breaking (once again, why do you need an orange security cone?) but I do feel that some sneaking around is OK.

If you are going to hide stuff in your room, though, be smart about it, and maybe become close friends with your RA.




CARA SELICK/YOUR NEWS-LETTER EDITOR


Real road signs (as in stolen rather than bought) aren't allowed in dorms.





# CARTOONS, ETC.


your horoscope


**Aries:** (March 21 - April 19)  
Why do the best comebacks always come your way after the fact? Anything is better than "your mom!"


**Taurus:** (April 20 - May 20)  
Do you love abortions as much as I do? They're great! They should be free, like the air we breathe! Take that, scary protestors.


**Gemini:** (May 21 - June 20)  
Little did you know that this week a bird will defecate on your homework on your way to class. Never fear; the rain will wash it off.


**Cancer:** (June 21 - July 22)  
Kids don't know how good they have it. Nap time, snack time, zero inhibitions ... the children are living the good life!


**Leo:** (July 23 - August 22)  
Love is a complicated thing. Stay away from it for as long as possible because it only leads to broken hearts.


**Virgo:** (August 23 - Sept. 22)  
To ace that bio exam you should break into the professor's office and steal it. The stars have aligned to keep you safe.


**Libra:** (Sept. 23 - October 22)  
"Eat as much as you want and still lose weight" does not work unless you actually purchase the program that the slogan advertises.

**Scorpio:** (October 23 - Nov. 21)  
Their best efforts to keep you down will fail. You will overcome the ambiguous "man" who wants to take us all down.

**Sagittarius:** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)  
"Green" is the new term for the "environmentally friendly" or, as we here at Waste City like to call them, "wussies."

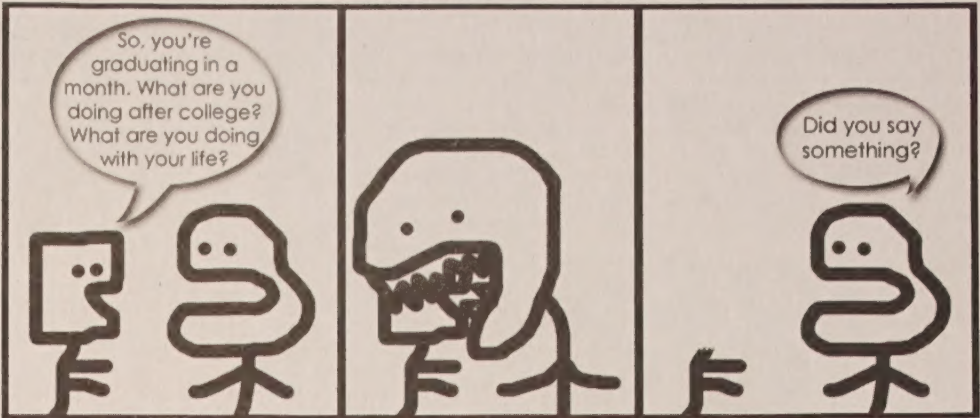
**Capricorn:** (Dec. 23 - January 19)  
Boogers on the wall, when removed years later, may take the wall paint with them. Please, exercise caution.

**Aquarius:** (January 20 - Feb. 18)  
So much depends upon how Monday goes. If Monday is a good day, your horoscopes are more positive. Be prepared for a rough week.

**Pisces:** (Feb. 19 - March 20)  
Much fanfare has gone into the search for the new University president. Let's do this the old-fashioned way with a coin flip.

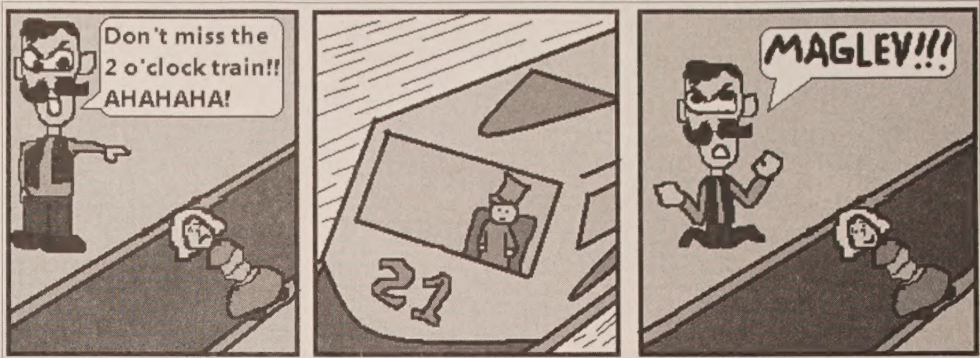
## Comicali

by Joe Micali



## Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



## Sudoku

	2	3	8	5				4	6
		7	5					2	
	6						3		
				1	2				
		6		4	3	7		9	
					9	8			
			9						4
		5					9	1	
	8	4				1	7	3	5

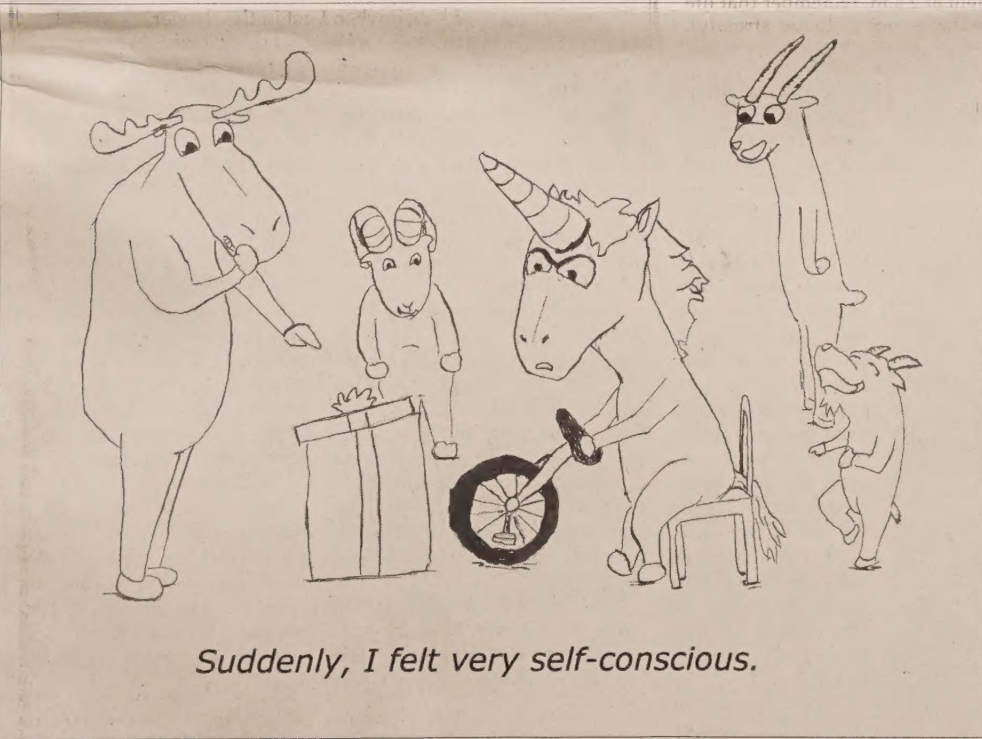
## Random Information

by Natachi Chukumerije



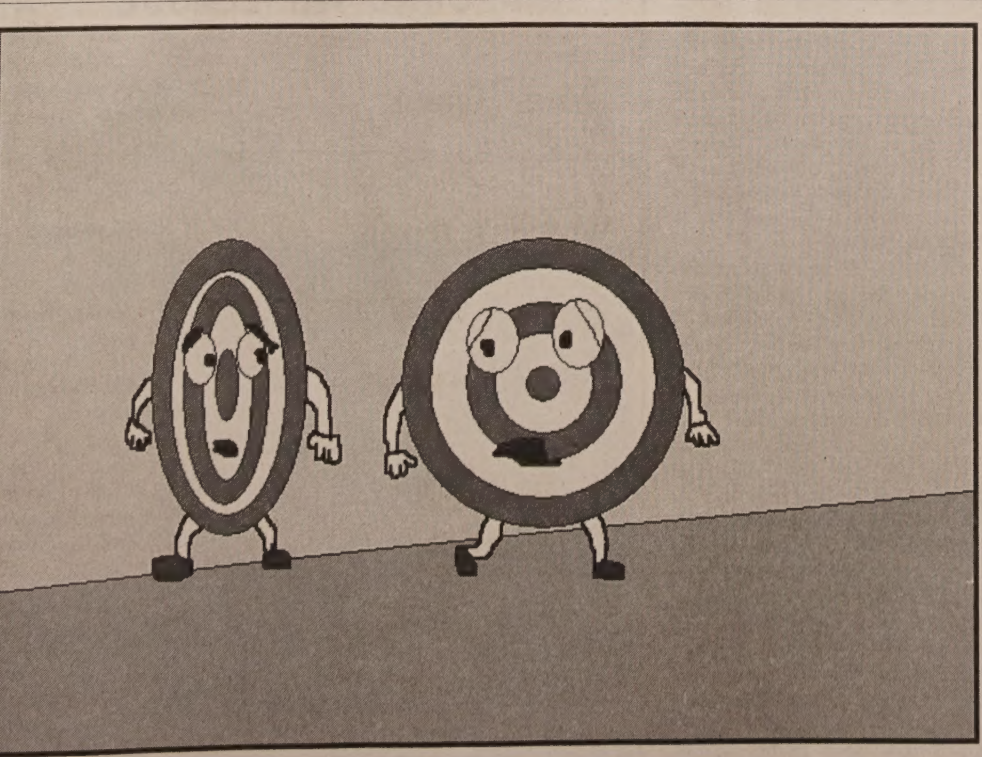
## Nate Cartoons

by Nate Min



## A Photo in Time

by Nate Min



## Brad, Angelina adopt Ang Lee

A representative for Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt told the Associated Press on Tuesday that the "couple is proud to announce that there has been a new addition to their loving family. "Angelina and Brad have adopted an adorable Taiwanese boy and can't wait to take him home and show him all the love that he deserves." The representative later confirmed that the Taiwanese boy in question is acclaimed director Ang Lee. Jolie consented to a telephone interview on Wednesday. "You know," she said, "there are so many children in this world who never receive the kinds of care and opportunities that they deserve. Every child should have the chance to become anything they can dream of — from an astronaut to an Academy Award-winning director." "But unfortunately," continued the gaunt actress, "geography and geopolitics have conspired against so many children. Just because they were born in a poor or unstable country, many promising young minds will never get to do marvelous things, such as earn a master's of fine arts from New York University." Asked how the 53-year-old Lee would fit into their family, Jolie acknowledged that he was "a bit" older than the other children she and Pitt have adopted but explained that they "were looking for a different sort of parenting

challenge." She further stated that the couple hopes that "Anggie" would be a "good big brother, a role model" to their other children, named Maddox, Pax, Zahara and Shiloh. Jolie said that she and Pitt have planned several trips and activities to help Lee feel comfortable within his new family. "We're going to take him to Disney World. All kids love that. And especially for a child from his background, it should be great. "He's probably never seen stuff like that before, all the lights and sounds and rides ... But don't worry, Brad and I are all prepared to explain to him that the animatrons aren't real. We don't want our sweet baby Ang getting scared." "How often would a little Taiwanese boy get to experience something like that?" Jolie continued. "We have really high hopes for him. Maybe one day he'll get to do something special, like be the assistant director on a student film made by someone as acclaimed as Spike Lee ... Of course, we'll educate him in all the childhood classics, everything from the Hulk cartoons to

Jane Austen novels. We want him to be well-rounded and prepared for whatever career he chooses when he grows up." Ang Lee himself was unavailable for comment, as Jolie said that she and Pitt wanted to protect him from the media as much as possible. However, Lee's spokesman, Paul Chen, called the adoption "quite absurd." He wondered how it was even possible, saying "Don't these people realize that Mr. Lee is not a child? He is a grown man. He's married. He has two children of his own! How can you adopt a 53-year-old man?" "Frankly, it's insulting," Lee's spokesman continued. "They think that they can adopt anyone they want, as long as they come from an exotic-sounding place. Ang Lee is more accomplished and respected than the two of them put together! He's directed several of the greatest movies of our time, including *Brokeback Mountain* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. He's won an Oscar and been nominated for two more!" "What have they done, Mr. and Mrs. Smith? Oh sure, it's entertaining, but does it explore the role that tradition, family and obligation play in determining the paths that each of us must choose in pursuing our lives as independent, modern adults? No. You know what does? *The Wedding Banquet*. Know who directed that? Ang f---in' Lee."

## Adar Eisenbruch Let's Talk



# W. tennis win streak broken by the Tartans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12  
training on our own time as well." Dedication to working hard is definitely what this squad is displaying so far this year.

When Hopkins headed to Pittsburgh on Sunday, April 6, expectations were high and



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Sophomore Anita Bhamidipati connects.

Carnegie Mellon took an early lead with 3-0. The Jays made the Tartans earn every victory. Matava and Bhamidipati once again teamed up together for the first, but they lost to Amy Staloch and Jennifer Chui 8-2. Sophomore Ellen Berlinghof and freshman Yasmine Elamir lost 8-4 to Kelly Hart and Ashley Herrick at second, and at third, junior Debbie Blass and freshman Julia Guarino lost 8-2 to Alisa Liebowitz and Danielle Rosenfeld.

The Blue Jays' two points in the match came at second and fourth singles. Bhamidipati won in straight sets at second, beating Chui for her 35th career win. That win now ties her for fourth in program history in career singles wins. Elamir then dropped just two games to win her 10th straight at fourth, beating Liebowitz.

The team is not at all disappointed in the loss. As the only senior on the squad, Carr is very enthusiastic with what the team is taking from the small setback. "I think our team spirit and devotion has contributed to our success," she said. "Although we are ranked 19th in the nation, our goal is not to just maintain that position. We would like to win nationals this year and practicing hard to reach that goal."

After the Jays' match against Washington (10-2) on April 8, they travel to Bryn Mawr (1-11). "The match against

Washington may prove to be a tough one. They have definitely given us a run for our money in the past. We want to focus a bit on our doubles," Carr said.

"To prepare for the Washington match, Coach Willenborg spent all practice yesterday working on

doubles. Also, to make the doubles teams stronger and closer, he has doubles partners warm up together on match days. Coach wants the doubles teams to stay aggressive and focused for the Washington match."

Staying aggressive and focused is exactly what this team is all about. However, the girls are

not all business all the time. "Our team is really close," Carr said. "We often have team dinners, and when there is a birthday, somebody volunteers to bring cupcakes to practice." Here's to wishing for victory cupcakes on Sunday.

The match at Bryn Mawr takes place at 12 p.m., this Saturday, April 12.

# Blue Devils scorch men's lax in fifth-straight loss

By ERIC GOODMAN  
News-Letter Staff Writer

In a highly anticipated rematch of last year's national championship game, the second-ranked Duke Blue Devils (11-1) defeated the 11th-ranked Blue Jays (3-5) 17-6 to mark an unprecedented fifth consecutive loss for the Blue Jays. This was the first time the Jays have lost five consecutive games since statistics were kept, a period spanning 125 years.

For Hopkins and head coach Dave Pietramala, this game had huge ramifications. The Blue Jays had lost four straight heading into their match with Duke, including three overtime losses and a thrashing last week against North Carolina, the first time that Hopkins has lost four straight in 18 seasons.

This was also the first time Hopkins and Duke have played each other since last year's national championship game, which the Blue Jays won 12-11. But facing a Duke team with a seven game margin in the win column and keeping in mind that Duke has three of the top offensive players in the country in seniors Matt Danowski and Zack Greer and sophomore Max Quinzani, Hopkins was prepared to come out with full intensity.

"We were focused on doing our jobs to play to the best of our ability," sophomore goalie Michael Gvozden said. "The only pressure we put on ourselves is to get out of the slump we're in."

The Blue Jays got on the scoreboard first with an unassisted



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Junior midfielder Andrew Miller works to block a shot in an earlier game against Syracuse, one of Hopkins's five recent losses.

score by senior Kevin Huntley, but Duke scored three unanswered goals, one each by Danowski and Quinzani within 10 seconds of each other, and one by junior midfielder Ned Crotty to go up 3-1 by the end of the first quarter.

The Jays started the scoring in the second quarter by taking advantage of being two men up when senior co-captain Michael Doneger took a pass from Huntley and put one past Duke goalkeeper Dan Loftus to cut

the deficit to one. Duke scored two minutes later, but Hopkins evened up the score at four on a pair of goals, the first by junior Austin Walker and the second on a man-up possession by senior midfielder Paul Rabil.

However, the run would be short lived for Hopkins. Duke took the lead again just thirteen seconds after Rabil's goal on an unassisted goal by Parker McKee, which started a 9-0 run for the Blue Devils which lasted for 20 minutes and 11 seconds. Greer and Quinzani accounted for five of the goals, while Danowski assisted on four of the goals.

For the Jays, the offense could not get any scoring in the third quarter despite taking eight shots, but more startling was the fact that Duke's high pressure defense held Hopkins to just two successful clears in eight attempts.

"We understood that we'd have to make the most of our offensive possessions going into the second half," Doneger said. "But Duke made the plays that they had to make to pull away with it and we didn't do anything to stop the bleeding."

Senior defenseman Eric Zerlaut said, "The goals that they earned were frustrating — they came as a result of us not communicating and supporting each other. Many goals were a result of us beating ourselves, in a manner of speaking."

Senior defensemen Matt Bocklet finally ended the scoring drought on a goal off a face-off with 3:14 left in the third quarter. The goal was Bocklet's first of the year, and first since last year's regular season match against Duke. But Hopkins could not start a scoring run as the Blue Devils scored a pair of unassisted goals before Hopkins would score again.

The Jays' final goal would come on a Kevin Huntley shot from Dave Spaulding with 11:50 left in regulation. Zack Greer

would score two more goals, both on assists from Mike Danowski, before the final horn sounded and Duke would win by a final score of 17-6.

"We are very disappointed, but the only thing that an athlete can do to put himself in the best position to win the next one is to pinpoint your mistakes, correct them and refocus on an entirely new opportunity to correct this season," Rabil said.

The 11-goal difference was the largest losing margin for the Blue Jays since a 12-goal loss against Syracuse on March 8, 1988. Statistically, Hopkins was over-matched, as Duke won the battle in shots (39-31), ground balls (40-38), face-offs (15 out of 25 for Duke) and saves (10-8). Hopkins also had a season high nine failed clears, and Duke scored four goals in six extra man tries, while Hopkins was only able to convert on two of seven.

"This has been the most challenging season for Hopkins in a long, long time," Doneger said. "Despite that, we can still turn this thing around. I know we can, the players know we can and our coaches know we can."

The first step toward turning this season around will be this Saturday at 2 p.m. Hopkins will take on the University of Maryland Terrapins at Homewood Field in the Homecoming Weekend game. This will be the 104th time that Hopkins and Maryland have played each other, and Hopkins leads the overall series with 65 wins to 37 losses and one tie. A crowd of over 10,000 is expected, and Hopkins will try to get back in the win column for the first time in more than a month.

"Unfortunately, we have had a very difficult time in the past month," Rabil said. "There is only one thing to do at this moment, and that is to continue to work hard in practice and focus mentally on what it will take to win our next game versus Maryland."

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK RAFAEL ROBERTI, MEN'S TENNIS

# Humble Pie: Rafael Roberti thanks the team

By SIMRAN HUNDAL  
News-Letter Staff Writer

The day of the Carnegie Mellon match couldn't have been sweeter for the leader of the men's tennis team, Rafael Roberti, who won both his doubles and singles line to earn his 45th win, breaking the Johns Hopkins record for most career singles wins. His performance propelled the team to a 6-3 satisfying victory over the Tartans.

The constantly-focused and humble team captain stressed the team win. "More importantly, the team got a much needed victory and we are finally all clicking heading towards the end of the season." In fact, "45 career singles wins was never in my mind until it was brought up recently," Roberti said. This is simply a testimony to the captain's mindset, always focused from the team's point of view, rather than his own.

Roberti has made gigantic strides since he first stepped on the court as a freshman. As a matter of fact, Roberti had been suggested to join the club team by head coach Chuck Willenborg after losing in a tryout match to fellow teammate Joe Vasoontara 6-0, 6-0. Roberti, undiscouraged, asked the coach for a second shot.

"I thought about it for about two hours, called him back and asked for another shot because I knew I could help this team. Coach gave me another chance and from then on we've had a wonderful four years," Roberti said.

The past four years have, indeed, been wonderful for the men's tennis team, especially in recent years as they have risen to become one of the best Division-III teams in the nations. When asked what was his most memorable experience on the team, he said, "My greatest mem-

ory is still clinching the victory against Washington College freshman year and giving Hopkins its first-ever conference title." He continued on, relentlessly shifting the focus to the team. "While we did not make it to NCAAAs that year, the team had learned a lot about itself. Our coaches, Chuck and

victories." Roberti humbly concluded, "This record is as much a personal one as it is a team one and I thank my guys for helping me accomplish it."

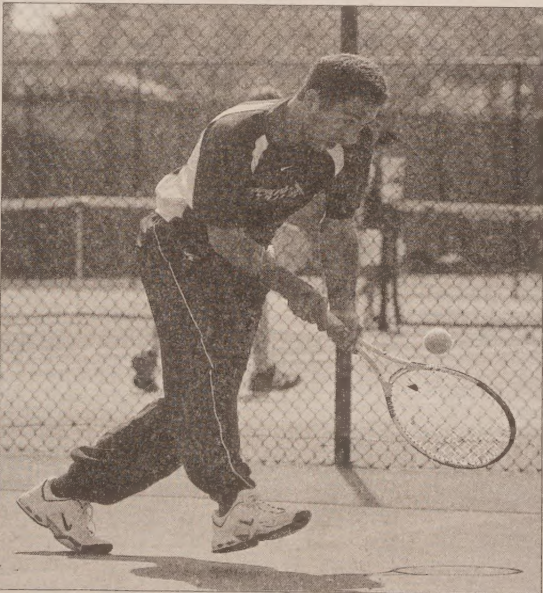
When looking into the future, the Roberti "tries to take it one day at a time, and enjoy my teammates and coaches." When talking to these cornerstones of his life for the past four years, Roberti admitted, "Some recent conversations have gotten a tad emotional, because we all have been though a lot." But Roberti tries to keep his focus on the season at hand even with the realization of this season being his last in the back of his mind. "There's still plenty of tennis to be played, so I'm focusing on that while I still have it," he said.

As for the rest of the tennis season, there is still much Roberti hopes to accomplish, especially as a team. "We want

to make it to the Elite Eight this year and avenge some of our earlier losses. This team is built to do great things and I am excited about the rest of the season," Roberti said. He added, "And who knows, this team definitely has the ability to bring home a national title to Hopkins this year."

As for the reality of his record-holding place in Hopkins's athletic history, 'Raf' concluded, "I don't think what I've been able to accomplish has set in, but I'll have plenty of time after the season to look back on my time here."

However, he was quick to shrug off any well deserved pride, highlighting the fact of his fast approaching sophomore teammate David Maldow to the very record he just broke. "David Maldow, I am very pleased to say, will break my singles record by the fall of his junior year," Roberti said without hesitation. Nevertheless, Rafael Roberti's impact on the men's tennis program has been incomparable, and within that thick outer shell of humbleness and selflessness, I hope, on behalf of the Hopkins student body, that he realizes that.



CONOR KEVITT/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Dave, instilled a great foundation of hard work and team unity and they have really turned this program around."

The relationships Roberti has built with coaches and teammates seem to have defined his time not only on the team, but in his life here at Hopkins as well as after graduation. Roberti reflected, "After four years of working six to seven days a week, traveling together for hours to matches, eating at Bert's, the Thai Restaurant or the other places the team dines together, everyone on this team has become like family to me, and I could not have imagined a better experience."

Roberti continued to point to his team as his driving force during the past four years. "If it weren't for my coaches and my team, cheering me on, teaching me a forehand, and pushing me to get better I wouldn't have any

# Women's lax falls short in OT showdown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B12

A quick goal off of a well timed feed opened the floodgates as the Commodores went on a four-goal streak, a streak that would finish with only eight seconds left to play, when they would score the equalizer, sending the game into overtime.

The Lady Jays struck first in overtime, as Lauren Schwarzmenn scored her 14th goal of the season. Her goal came only 55 seconds into the extra time, with Schwarzmenn driving down the middle of the field and scoring as she fell to the ground. The Lady Jays held on for almost the rest of the overtime period, but Vanderbilt found another equalizer with just over two minutes remaining, sending the game into a sudden death second overtime.

In the second overtime, Hopkins got the first shot off, but Schwarzmenn's shot went wide. On the other end of the field, a wild shot found its way to a Vanderbilt player waiting behind the net, who was able to feed across the crease, resulting in the game-winning goal, a harsh finish to the fantastic game played by both sides.

With the loss, the Lady Jays drop to 5-6 overall, and 0-1 in the ALC conference. They will look to avenge their overtime loss this weekend, as they head out to face UMBC.

## AROUND THE LEAGUE

### Men's Tennis

No. 22 NCAA ranking  
7-5 record

### Women's Tennis

No. 17 NCAA ranking  
10-1 record

### Men's Lacrosse

No. 15 NCAA ranking  
3-5 record

### Women's Lacrosse

No. 17 NCAA ranking  
5-6 record

### Crew

n/a

### Baseball

18-4 (7-1) record  
No. 15 in conference



# Track takes first in seven events

By ALEX IP  
News-Letter Staff Writer

The men's and women's track teams had several strong finishes in their events at the Muhlenberg Invitational last weekend. Many members had noticeably better performances than at their previous invitational, with several first- and second-place wins.

The girls were led by junior sprinter Paula Osborn, who placed second in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes, with times of 12.71 and 26.30 seconds, respectively.

Junior Jordan Ireton finished

third in the 400-meter dash at 1:01.43, up from 11th place in the 800-meter event at the University of Maryland Terrapin Invitational the previous week.

"The team had a great showing," Ireton said. "We didn't do anything different to prepare other than continue to work hard at practice, and that's going to be our game plan throughout the season."

The men's team followed suit, with junior Peter Li claiming the top spot in the discus throw and second place in the shot put, launching the ball 13.84 meters. Senior Tristan Thomas was also at the top of the lot in his event

— the 200-meter dash — notching a time of 22.33 seconds.

Sophomores Jonathan Walker and Pierre Hage followed right behind Thomas with sixth and 13th place finishes. Other underclassmen also showed flashes of their promising future on Saturday, including freshman Anita Mikkilineni, who participated in the 100- and 400-meter hurdles.

"I knew Coach [Bobby Van Allen] put me in a lot of events this time so I had to mentally prepare myself more than

usual. But more than anything, the motivation from my teammates helped; they didn't let me get too worried about it," Mikkilineni said.

As a result, she earned a time of 16.39 seconds in the preliminaries and 16.29 seconds in the finals of the 100-meter event for a fourth place finish, and Mikkilineni came in third in the 400-meter event, clocking a time of 1:08.93.

"It feels great to contribute to the team," she said. "All the hard work put in is finally paying off. Improving as a freshman is really satisfying because hopefully I'll only see better results from here."

However, for some, a higher finish in the standings didn't necessarily translate into an improvement in their marks compared to former meets.

This was the case for senior Becky Lossing, who posted a first-place finish in the high jump.

"My height in the high jump [at Muhlenberg] was not as good at the Terrapin Invitational. So as it turns out, it was actually more of an off-day in that regard," Lossing said. She placed third at the Terrapin Invitational despite notching a jump more than a 10th of a meter higher than her most recent.

Lossing also came in sixth in the long jump with 4.71 meters and placed 11th in the triple jump. Of the many goals of team, one of them is to take first at the conference championships for both the men and women's teams.

The Jays would also enjoy an upset of Haverford's expected first place finish at Outdoor Conferences. But with track having a major individuality component to the sport as well, there also comes multiple personal goals.

"I would be absolutely thrilled to finish my college career by going to nationals in the high jump, so I'll be working on clearing those last two inches in the meantime," Lossing said.

Junior Adam Waddell is preparing for a decathlon and has adjusted accordingly. "I have been learning new events, as well as trying to improve on my usual events and continuing to become a better track athlete," Waddell said.

The Jays' next meet is the Widener Invitational on the weekend after next in Chester, Pa.

# Going upstream with the crew team

Was it just a dream, or did that actually happen to me? I asked myself during my 9 am class. My memory was a cold, dark, wet blur. I looked at my notebook and noticed a damp corner. It must have really happened, then. I had actually accomplished a lifelong dream—attending a Hopkins crew practice.

Which I'm very proud of, even though I don't quite remember it all. The sequence is as follows: an alarm clock going off at 4:30, cold cobblestones pressing through my converse on the walk to the library. A dark silent bus ride through an empty Baltimore, muddy grass, cold fingertips rubbing my drooping eyes. Wind whipping, engine rumbling, voices screaming, counting from 1 to 28.

I'll admit my account may be a bit foggy, but I can assure you I speak the truth when I talk about the characteristics of people that make up the crew team. These athletes are driven. Truly, unquestionably dedicated to their team and to the sport. Looking back, these adjectives seem perfectly appropriate. But I admit that at the time, the only word I could think of was "crazy."

So call the crew team whatever you like—but be careful, because they could easily attack you while you sleep. These athletes possess both the physical strength to power a 220-pound boat as well as the mental ability to beat the sun to rising. Quite a deadly combination!

But there's no need to be afraid of them. The team was extremely friendly to me and eager to talk about the sport (once everyone awoke from their naps on the bus ride to the harbor, that is). During our boat ride alongside the women's team, I asked coach Steve Perry about the team's attitude.

"This sport has excellent sportsmanship. It's a different

kind of competition. Teams help each other out. There's no name-calling, no yelling at each other," he hollered across our "racing shell."

But in reality, yelling is one of the most important aspects of the sport. As I watched the rowers propel the boats, I was astonished by the rhythm and power that stemmed from the coxswain's loud commands. Though many sports claim to have a "rhythm" or "flow" to them, the sport of rowing depends almost entirely on the two.

Even when the crew team is out off the water, they stay in sync. Not only am I talking about stretching, warm-ups, or cool downs, but also lifting, loading, carrying, and cleaning the boats in unison. During their 5am-8am practices, the team is only actually on the water for an hour.

Needless to say, the members of the crew team share quite a unique bond. "I really like being part of a team and having that camaraderie," freshman coxswain Carolyn Pearce said.

Of course, there is some competition amongst the team for

starting spots in their weekly regattas. With a meet scheduled for all but one weekend of their spring season, the many members of the crew team are forced to give their best during each practice to get a place on the 4 and 8 person teams that compete. This is especially true for the men's team, which boasts 32 members.

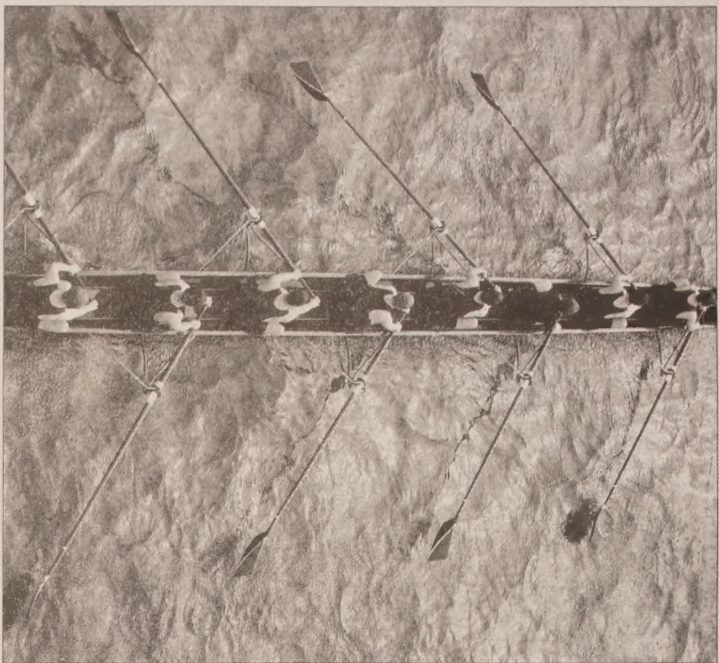
"Crew teaches you perseverance... and a little bit of pain," Pearce said. "They're definitely hardworking," coach Perry added.

In the end, though, the hard work isn't directed towards personal benefit as much as keeping a team rhythm. "You really have to work your hardest because you don't want to let your team down," Pearce said.

In order to prevent this from happening, the team also focuses on staying positive while they row.

On the bus ride back, the women discussed potential phrases, and words for the coxswains to chant between strokes, ranging from simple "keep it up"s to "drain yourself!"

And there I was, quite drained indeed as I trudged back to my room. As I thawed out in a warm shower, I concluded that rowing just isn't the sport for me. Still, I'm glad I got to experience one crew practice in my life. It was a dream come true.



COURTESY OF MADISON WEST

The men's varsity eight practices six days a week and only has one weekend off this spring.



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The women's team ran their fastest over the weekend.

# M. tennis sends Carnegie Mellon Tartans tumbling

Continued from Page B12

championships coming up in May.

"It's impressive how we've been dominating our conference lately," Maldow said.

"We've come a long way over the years; Washington College used to be the conference powerhouse, but now we've taken their spot. Each conference winner gets an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament, and since we're the favorite to win the conference, we're looking to do some damage at the tournament," Maldow said.

At second, Wang beat Hollaman handily, allowing Hollaman to win only one game. Roberti didn't allow Lewis to win a single game, tying the school record for career singles wins. Weber cruised to a 6-3, 6-1 win over Todd Wonderlin, which was his third in a row.

Naftilan only dropped one game in crushing Kevin Dean, and at sixth Myers beat Ellwood 6-0 and 6-3. The next day, the team continued to roll in Pittsburgh, beating #17-ranked Carnegie Mellon 6-3.

The Jays have been hot lately, having won seven of its last nine matches. With his 45th win, Roberti broke the school record for most overall singles, previously held by Kevin Alford in 2003. With the upset, Hopkins moves to 7-5 overall for the season, while Carnegie Mellon falls to 12-6.

Hopkins continued to win their doubles matches, sweeping all three, as they did the day before. Roberti and Naftilan beat Bobby MacTaggart and Alex Nemerov at third by a score of 8-6. Maldow's and Wang's match went to a tiebreaker, but in the end they pulled it off, beating Andrew Clearfield and Ravi Raghavan 9-8 (7-3). At first, senior Joe Vasoontara and freshman Casey Blythe also beat Nikola Ljuboja and James Mulawan 8-6 as well.

Having lost all three doubles matches by small margins, Carnegie Mellon looked for revenge in the singles matches. They came out determined, and took the first three singles matches, tying the overall match at three apiece.

Muliawan beat Vasoontara in a close match, Maldow took his match against Clearfield to a tiebreaker but came up short 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7-4). Wang fell to Nemerov, but the Jays came right back to take the win.

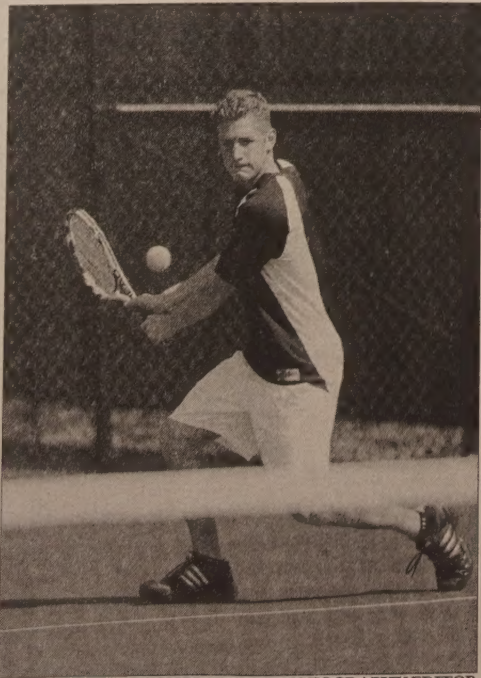
Sophomore Peter Vale earned the team's first singles win of the day and took back the overall lead, handling MacTaggart 6-3, 6-2.

"With our singles and especially our doubles so strong, we're looking to repeat at conference championships this year. We're expecting a good showing at the NCAA tournament in May," Vale said with regard to the upcoming championships.

Blythe then ended Carnegie Mellon's chances of a comeback, clinching the overall match with a win over Jon Spero.

In the final match of the day, Roberti then broke the record for the most career singles wins, with a 6-0, 7-5 win over Raghavan.

The Jays will next take on Franklin and Marshall College in an important Centennial Conference matchup this Saturday, April 12, up in Lancaster, Pa., at 11 a.m.



CONOR KEVIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Sophomore David Maldow had a very victorious weekend.

# Muhlenberg halts baseball's 12-game winning streak

By JEREMY SELBST  
For The News-Letter

Boasting a 12-game win streak, the 21st-ranked Johns Hopkins Blue Jays opened Sunday's double header with a 7-6 victory over Muhlenberg. Unfortunately, the 13-game win streak was halted by an 8-5 loss later in the day.

Sophomore catcher John Swarr said of the games, "It's always difficult to win a double-header, and that proved true. The team was really gunning to beat us, and after we won the first game, they were able to bounce back and beat us."

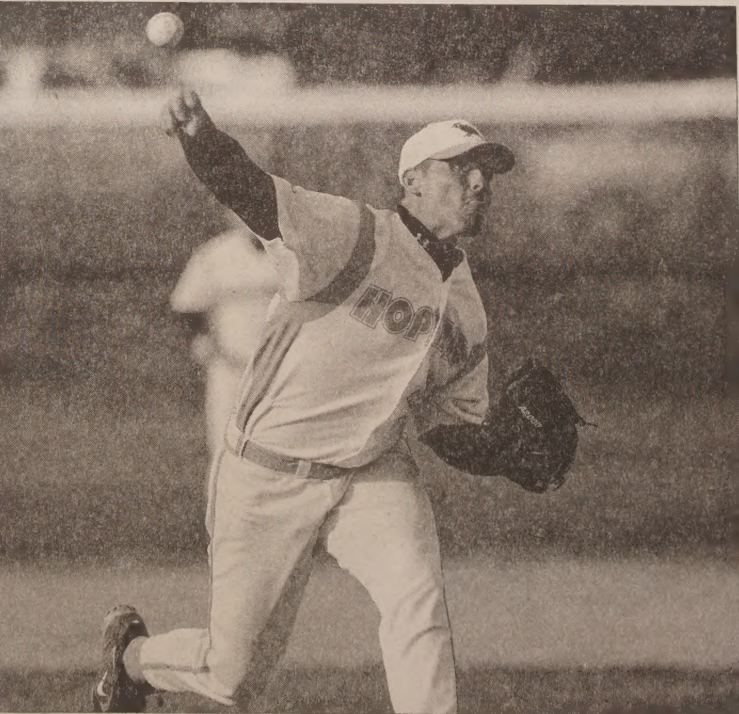
Game one of the two-game day began favorably for the Jays as senior center fielder Rob Pietroforte opened the game up in the top of the first with a double to score senior left-fielder Jon Solomon.

Later in the inning, the Blue Jays were able to string together two more runs via senior third baseman Todd Emr as he drove in an RBI-single and later scored.

After Hopkins scored the initial three runs in the first, the score remained 3-0 until Hopkins was able to get another in the fifth off of Pietroforte's second RBI double of the game.

Along with Pietroforte's bat, Hopkins' pitching was another highlight. Junior pitcher Chez Angeloni started the game and kept the Mules offense at bay by not allowing a single Muhlenberg player to reach base for the first 4 innings, and then proceeded to keep the Mules off the scoreboard until they exploded with a three run sixth.

Sophomore Brendan Walsh said of Angeloni's performance, "Chez pitched a great game. He got ahead of hitters well and kept



SHIV GANDHI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior pitcher Ryan Keeley throws a fireball against his opponent. The men are currently 18-4.

them off balance."

The Jays scored two additional runs in the top of the seventh off the bat of senior catcher Tony Margve, and then were able to weather another three run assault by the Mules to walk away with a 7-6 victory.

Game one of the double header featured two accomplishments on the part of the Blue Jay lineup. In addition to adding its 13th consecutive game to the team's winning streak, Emr also extended his personal hit streak to 15 games.

After an equally promising start for the Jays in the first inning of the second game, Hop-

kins' offensive performance stalled and the Mules were able to best the Blue Jays 8-5. Game two started out much like the first game of the day as Pietroforte again drove home runs, this time via a two-run homerun in the top of the first.

Unfortunately, the Blue Jays' success was short-lived, as Muhlenberg's first five batters were able to safely reach the bases. Muhlenberg's offensive surge in the first included a two-run triple by John Kalis.

Muhlenberg pitcher Matthew Ordog backed Kalis and company's offensive first inning dominance throughout the game by

delivering eight strong innings. Ordog pitched well over his eight innings against the Blue Jays, holding them to only two first inning runs before Hopkins gained momentum and was able to exploit Ordog's fatigue in the fifth inning and string together three more runs.

Going into the second inning, Muhlenberg already had totaled five of their eight eventual runs. After Muhlenberg's impressive first inning statistics, the Blue Jays were able to right the ship and avoid any further blow-out innings.

The regrouped Hopkins pitching staff stemmed Muhlenberg's offense, allowing for a potential fifth inning comeback.

In the fifth inning the Hopkins batters drove in three runs as Bor-

relli, Bolyard and Soloman all crossed the plate. After allowing another Muhlenberg run in the bottom of the fifth inning, the Hopkins pitchers kept Muhlenberg scoreless for the rest of the game.

The Blue Jays' late game pitching performances proved fruitless however as the Hopkins bats went cold and the team failed to score again. Hopkins dropped the second game of the double-header 8-5, and in doing so let their 13-game win streak come to an end.

The Jays' next game is at home on Thursday, April 10, against Villa Julie College.



# SPORTS

## THIS DAY IN SPORTS

1971 — With the United States and China in somewhat heated relations during the Cold War, the People's Republic invited the U.S. table tennis team for a week-long stay in what became known as Ping-Pong Diplomacy.

## CALENDAR

FRIDAY

Baseball vs. Gettysburg 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

M. lacrosse vs. Maryland 2 p.m.

## W. lacrosse falls short in Vandy OT showdown

By MIKE SUMNER  
News-Letter Staff Writer

The Blue Jays really needed a victory against the Vanderbilt Commodores to kick off their conference season. While sophomore goalie, Lizzie O'Ferrall finished with a career best 12 saves, the Lady Jays lost in a heartbreaking overtime finish by a score of 11-10.

The Jays opened the scoring just over two minutes in, when senior Lauren Schwarzmann broke down the Vanderbilt defense, dodging her way down the right side before scoring on a low shot, her 13th this year. However, Vanderbilt leveled the scoring at one at 11:27.

Not wasting any time, the Lady Jays responded with sophomore Sam Schrum and junior Gina Maranto, who gave their team the lead, scoring back to back goals minutes apart. But again, Vanderbilt answered, pulling within one at 17:17. As Vanderbilt continued to press, hoping for the equalizer, Schrum forced a turnover, leading back down to the other end, where senior Kirby Houck received the pass before breaking from the pack to score on the breakaway.



Senior midfielder Kadie Stamper lets loose a diving shot for the Jays in Saturday's nail-biting overtime game against Vanderbilt.

Schrum was then rewarded for her hard work with 9:52 left to play, taking the ball across the top of the arc, scoring on a terrific shot, in traffic, that found its way to the net. But before the Lady Jays could pull away, the half ended

with a flurry of goals from both teams.

**Final**  
Vanderbilt 11  
Hopkins 10

A costly mistake on a clear led to a Vanderbilt goal on the restart, making it a 5-3 game. But it would be Schrum, again, who would respond for the Jays, finishing her

hat-trick with only 1:38 to play. The high was short-lived, when Vanderbilt answered 29 seconds later, giving Vanderbilt the momentum going into halftime, despite trailing 6-4.

The Lady Jays opened the second half with Maranto's second goal of the afternoon, just 3:16 into play, which bumped their lead back up to three. From there, the back and forth nature of the first half carried over, with the Commodores answering minutes later. Breaking the trend were seniors Kadie Stamper and Kirby Houck, who pushed the Jay lead to 9-5 with back to back goals. With 20 minutes left to play, the Commodores took initiative.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10

## M. tennis still perfect in Centennial matches

By MIKE PORAMBO  
News-Letter Staff Writer

The No. 22-ranked men's tennis team continued to dominate the Centennial Conference last Saturday, winning its 15th straight conference regular season match with a fierce 9-0 shutout at Ursinus. The team improved to 4-0 in conference play, while the Bears fell to 3-9 overall and 0-5 in the conference.

The Jays started off on fire and never let up, dominating all three doubles matches, winning by a combined score of 24 to 1. Two teams shut out their opponents. At first, the dynamic duo of sophomore David Maldow and freshman Andrew Wang cruised to an 8-0 win versus Jason Zerbe

and Greg Lewis. At second senior Rafael Roberti and senior Matt Naftilan also beat out their opponents, Joseph Ellwood and Philip Ricci, 8-0. In the third match, Hopkins won handily yet again, with junior Tripp Weber and sophomore Dan Myers winning over Josh Hollaman and Robert Saunders 8-1.

The story was the same for the singles matches, as Hopkins won all six matches in straight sets. Maldow dominated Zerbe, not dropping a single set, improving to 17-2 on the season. With the win, Maldow is just one win away from tying the single-season record for wins, which he set last year with 18 wins. Maldow likes their chances at the NCAA

CONTINUED ON PAGE B11



Junior Tripp Weber reaches for a powerful backhand shot during Saturday's match.

## W. tennis perfect streak broken by Tartans

The Lady Jays were off to a historical 9-0 start before a hard-fought loss to Carnegie Mellon

By KATIE MOODY  
News-Letter Staff Writer

The women's tennis team improved their record to 9-0 on Saturday, April 5 with an 8-1 win against Haverford College (4-6). The win marked the Lady Jays' ninth straight victory, making this the best start in school history for Hopkins.

They also improved their record to 6-0 in the Centennial Conference. The following day, the Lady Jays hoped to remain undefeated when they travelled to Pittsburgh to face a tough rival, Carnegie Mellon (13-6). However, they ended up falling just short, losing 7-2.

In the match against Haverford, Hopkins won two out of the three doubles matches to take an early 2-1 lead against the Fords. Junior Brittany Matava and sophomore Anita Bhamidipati won their eighth match against Haverford. They served up the win by

soundly beating Haverford's Katherine Wettick and Karen Lavi 8-1 at first. At second, Hopkins freshman Yasmine Elamire and sophomore Ellen Berlinghof improved to 8-4 overall with an 8-1 win over Meaghan Ryan and Katherine Drooyan. The Fords' only point during the entire match came at the third round of doubles, when Fumiko Shogase and Jaclyn Porter squeaked by sophomore Amanda Schubert and freshman Abby Dwyer 8-6. This proved to be the only time Haverford was within one point of the Jays.

The Jays weren't about to let the Haverford girls have any attempt at a comeback in the match. Hopkins continued by sweeping all six singles matches straight to win the entire match 8-1. Matava improved her personal record to 16-3 with one of the wins, and Bhamidipati won at second for her sixth straight. At third, Dwyer remained unbeaten at 13-0

on the season while dropping just one game in beating Lavi, and Elamir kept the tennis ball rolling when she beat Shogase at fourth for her ninth straight win. Schubert continued the sweep, winning 6-2 at fifth over Porter for her ninth win of the season. And finishing solidly for the Jays at sixth, Berlinghof improved to 11-3 on the season, beating Drooyan while dropping only one game.

Senior Stephanie Carr was asked about the match against Haverford, and she had much to say about the great success so far. "The team has been working extremely hard all year long. In the off-season [fall] we practiced two hours, at least five days a week and we have continued to do so in the spring," she said. "When it rains, we do team training in the gym that involves some jogging, sprinting, lifting and abs. Many of us also do our own

CONTINUED ON PAGE B10



Freshman Yasmine Elamir stretches for a high backhand shot in Saturday's match. The Lady Jays improved to 9-0 on the day.

## INSIDE

### Men's lacrosse: Blue Devil woes

In a repeat match-up of last year's National Championship, the Blue Jays hardly met their previous performance, falling for a fifth-straight loss to the Duke Blue Devils. **Page B10.**

### Athlete of the Week: Rafael Roberti

Men's tennis player Rafael Roberti just broke the Hopkins school record for the most career wins with his 45th. Extremely modest, Roberti mainly spoke about his team. **Page B10.**

### Baseball: when streaks fall

The Johns Hopkins baseball team was facing a 12-game win streak going into a Muhlenberg double-header. However, the Jays couldn't pull through in the last game. **Page B11.**

## KAUST Discovery Scholarship

### Full scholarships for science and technology students

The King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), a 21st century graduate-level, research university, is offering scholarships for future leaders in science, engineering, and technology.

The benefits of the KAUST Discovery Scholarship include:

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